



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Volume XXI Number 48

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

December 3, 1998

Agawam's Answer To "Bright Nights"...



STEPANIK FARMS on Shoemaker Lane has been "decked" out for the holiday season. IN LEFT PHOTO: Alice Stepanik with a wreath she made. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Richard Stepanik in front of the Christmas trees for sale this year. (See related photo and story in "Spotlight On Business.") Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



AT THE AGAWAM PARISH ASSOCIATION'S first Thanksgiving Dinner: IN LEFT PHOTO - Jackie Toussaint, Joe Boccaccio, and Nancy Toussaint; IN RIGHT PHOTO - Lani Kretschmar of the Steering Committee for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Agawam Parish Association's First Thanksgiving Dinner Is A Success

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

Despite pouring rain, puddles, and slate-colored skies, the Agawam Parish Association's first venture surpassed expectations for Thanksgiving Dinner at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church on Thanksgiving Day from noon until after 3:00 p.m. There were many requests filled for dinners and companionship at

home, as well as rides provided for people who needed transportation to this community-spirited event.

The first sight upon turning into the parking lot was a smiling face under an umbrella, and an energetic wave toward a parking spot. Inside, the brightness and hearty welcomes came from

everywhere. This was hospitality and good cheer at its finest. The sense of community and spiritual strengthening came clearly through and were infectious.

People hustled from the dining area to the buffet serving table or the dessert table, laden with

SEE THANKSGIVING - Page 2...

THANKSGIVING - from Page 1...

platters of cakes, cookies, danish, pies of several flavors (even cherry). Both decaffeinated and regular coffee were brewing beside a table holding dozens of milk cartons. To the right, another table held rows and rows of African violets, which people were asked to take home after their meal.

Just Like A Homestyle Restaurant

So well organized, it felt almost like a homestyle restaurant. The dinner added other nice touches, such as the placemats and centerpieces, made and donated by local Daisy Girls, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Lani Kretschmar from the Dinner Committee and dozens of other helpers could be found in the kitchen preparing and serving up all the freshly-cooked foods they had been preparing since early the morning before.

The preparation for this Thanksgiving gathering began months ago. The Agawam Parish Association has not elected officers, but operated with a Steering Committee made up of Lani Kretschmar, Carol Treganawan, and Art Theobald. The affair was envisioned last August as a result of lay people's desire to do something for the community.

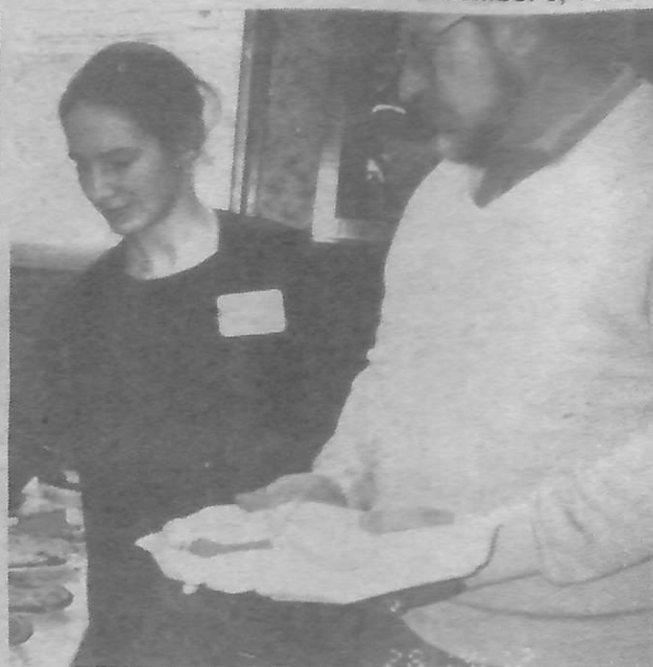
Art Theobald served as volunteer coordinator, contacting the many volunteers (there proved to be over 150) to work out a schedule for them and dividing them into "shifts." Art reflected that "the planning took several months."

Local Farmers A Blessing

Another helper, Joyce Munson, a member of the Suffield Congregational Church, catered the meal. She listed the steps for preparing such a meal, which first included meetings to discuss the menu and to decide where to get the food. She said, "Local farmers were wonderful. Farms in Southwick, Feeding Hills, and Agawam gave us great prices on turkeys. Squash were donated and we got special prices on potatoes and vegetables."

Joyce & Art Theobald did much of the shopping, and Joyce describes their efforts as "laughing a lot, pulling things out of our hats, and joking." On Wednesday, the day prior to the dinner, the crew devoted their time from 6:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m. to start the huge meal's preparation, with "great community spirit."

"Turkeys were donated from everywhere and the Association didn't have to buy a single one," Joyce added.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Vi Presz and Angelo Pumbo of the Agawam Senior Games Athletes. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Summer Giguere helps fix a dinner platter for Andy Pedersen to deliver to a person at home. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

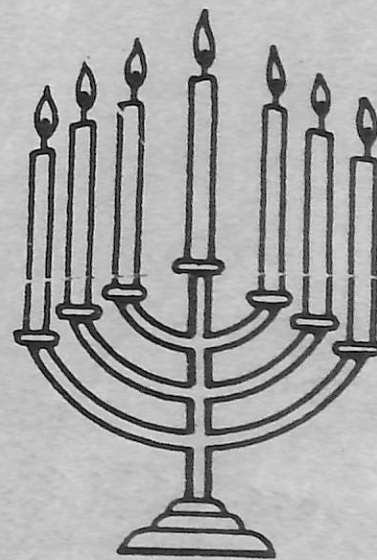


IN LEFT PHOTO: Janice Bonk, Lena Peloquin, John Wylie, and Harry Ingram (in back). IN RIGHT PHOTO: Reverend Donaldson and Jessie Fuller. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

SEE THANKSGIVING - Page 5...

Happy Holidays

From the Law Offices of Attorney Scott Hibbert



From all of us at the Law Offices of Attorney Scott M. Hibbert, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

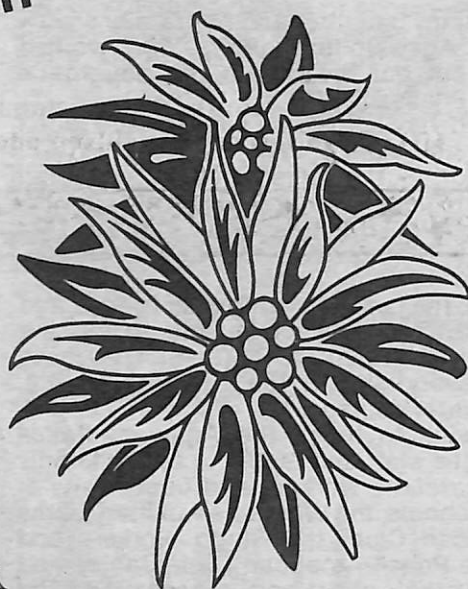
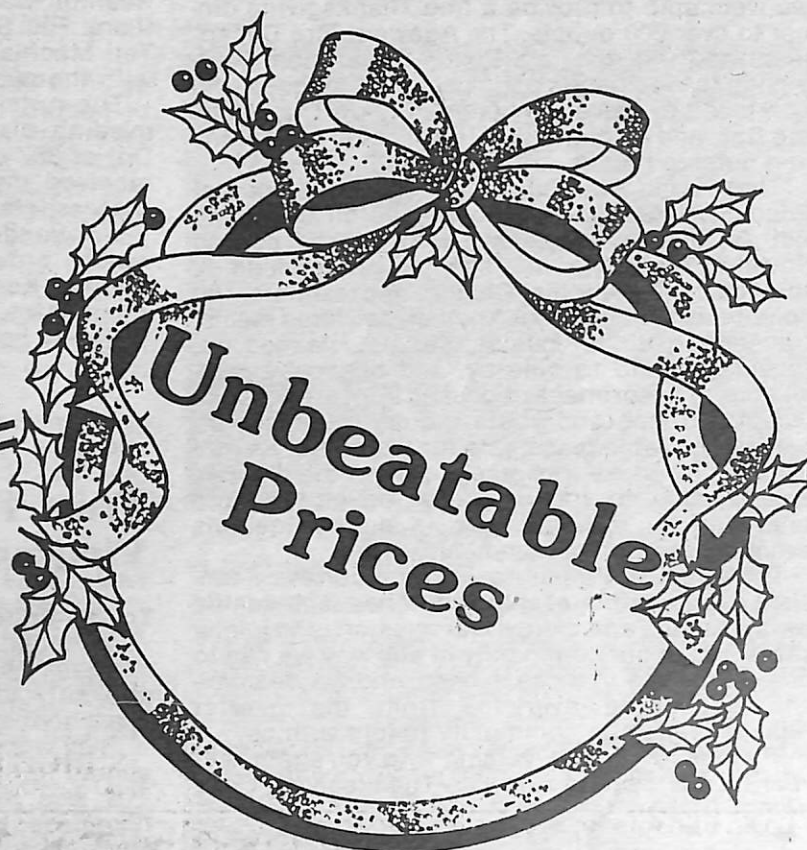
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Letters To The Editor

Thanksgiving Community Dinner Is A Success

To The Editor:

The Agawam Parish Association wishes to thank members of the Agawam community — businesses and individuals — for their help in making the first annual Agawam Thanksgiving Community Dinner such a success.

Through the many generous donations of money, time, turkeys, vegetables, and desserts, we were able to provide a free Thanksgiving dinner to over 200 people. The Agawam Fire Department and the Agawam Police Department were among the recipients of dinners sent to those who continued to serve the community on Thanksgiving Day, and 69 dinners were delivered to shut-ins and nursing homes.

Those who wanted to attend the dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church but could not get there on their own were picked up and driven to the dinner in a special van provided by the Agawam Methodist Church. Approximately 80 volunteers worked in the kitchen, delivered meals, transported dinner guests, set up, cleaned up, provided music to dine by, and baked an overwhelming assortment of desserts.

Scout troops and youth groups made centerpieces and table placemats for the dinner as well as cards for those who received delivered dinners. Thanks also to the media — newspaper and television — for their help in publicizing this event. It was truly a community effort.

The Agawam Parish Association currently consists of approximately nine churches represented by laypersons and clergy. Our mission is to jointly serve God in our community in any way we can to provide service to those in need, and we welcome and encourage everyone from the greater Agawam religious community to join with us.

We look forward to working with you again next year for the second Agawam Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

Sincerely,
Agawam Parish Association
Thanksgiving Dinner Committee

Thanks To Town's Police And Fire Departments

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the Agawam Fire Department and Police Department, especially EMT's A. Albano and C. Bilodeau and Police Officer Rick Riccio for the quick and efficient response to an accident my son was involved in recently.

My son was treated with superb skill and compassion. As a nurse, I was reassured by the fact that Agawam runs one of the best Emergency Medical Response programs in Western Mass.

I would also like to thank the EMT's for transporting Brad to Noble Hospital, where I was at work that morning.

Thank you,
Brenda Theriaque
Agawam

Junior Women's Club Thanks Everyone For Donations

To The Editor:

The Agawam Junior Women's Club wishes to thank all the organizations, churches, schools, businesses, and local citizens for their contributions to the holiday baskets for Thanksgiving.

We were able to fill 49 baskets, bringing joy to that many needy households. Your contributions made it possible.

Cindy Sanford Taylor, Vice-President
Agawam Junior Women's Club

* * *

Because of the large number of press releases, church notices, etc., that we receive during this time of the year, we cannot guarantee that these articles will appear more than once in our pages ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

* * *

Feeding Hills Resident Praises Emergency Personnel

To The Editor:

On Monday, November 16th, we had an emergency at home and Medical West told me to call 911.

My wife was going into insulin shock, and she already is partially paralyzed from a stroke last year. I would like to thank the police and emergency crew who responded to the call for their gentle and professional care in getting her to the hospital.

Sincerely,
Norman Iacolo
Feeding Hills

AHS's Class Of 1973 Had A Great 25th Reunion

To The Editor:

The Agawam High School's Class of 1973 25th Reunion was a **great success!** We would like to thank Ric Sardella (AHS '74 grad himself!) and Teri Machia, along with AAN staff for their help with the publicity coverage.

The running of the article to help us find our missing classmates was extremely successful. Out of 367 classmates, we found all but 38!! We received more calls from people who read *The AAN* article and helped in locating classmates.

It's wonderful that we have this local paper, which provides excellent coverage on town events. Keep up the good work, *AAN*! AHS classmates, we'll see you in 2003. It was great!!

Happy holidays to all!!

Susan Borgatti Meunier
Publicity Chairperson
AHS Reunion Committee

Trust Fund Established For Victims Of Pheasant Hill Fire

To The Editor:

On behalf of my daughter and her family, I wish to thank the Agawam firefighters who worked diligently to put out the fire in my daughter's apartment in Pheasant Hill.

They worked very hard to be sure the fire didn't spread to the adjoining units.

It was reported that three people were left homeless, but there were actually five. They include my daughter, Brenda Taylor, and her four children, Jamie Sternowski, Amanda Sternowski, Brett Taylor, and Ashley Taylor.

At this time, the family is living with friends and relatives and will probably still be split up until the unit has been renovated in February. They have lost almost everything in the fire due to fire, smoke, and water damage.

Also, we wish to thank the Agawam Police Association, the staff and teachers at the Middle School, the cafeteria workers and custodians at all Agawam schools, the Women's Auxiliary of the Polish American Club, the Bingo workers and players of the Polish American Club, Janice and Ed Barako for their effort and concern, and the friends, neighbors, and relatives for their kindness and donations.

The funds raised so far have been deposited in a trust fund under the name of **The Taylor Family Trust Fund.**

If anyone desires to contribute to the fund, it has been deposited at the Woronoco Savings Bank, P.O. Box 266, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Bob Binnenkade
Feeding Hills

Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano
Holiday Fire Safety

We think of the holidays as happy times, a chance to celebrate with family and friends.

The Agawam Fire Department wants to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, and offers the following suggestions to keep your holiday safe:

- When purchasing a live tree, look for the following signs of freshness. A fresh tree is green. Needles will be hard to pull from branches when bent between your fingers. Fresh needles don't break if bounced on the ground, and a minimum number of needles should fall off.

- To keep your tree fresh, cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better absorption of water, keep stored outside the house 'til you're ready to decorate, and keep the stand filled with water.

- When placing your tree, make sure it is kept away from sources of heat, like fireplaces or heat vents, and out of the way of traffic.

- Check out your lights before placing them on the tree. Look for worn or frayed wires and broken bulbs. Make sure you do not overload extension cords.

- Take care when using candles. Keep them away from other flammable decorations. Place them where they cannot be knocked over or reached by children. Do not leave lit candles in an unattended room.

- Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly. If you'll be traveling to visit family and you're not sure if they have a smoke detector, take one with you.

Remember, fires don't take a holiday, and by taking some precautions, you and your family can celebrate a fire-safe holiday. For more information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS - MEPA OFFICE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Perry Lane Conversion. LOCATION: Perry Lane Park, Perry Lane, Agawam, MA 01001. PROPONENT: Town of Agawam.

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on or before 12/7/98.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L., c. 30, s.s 61, 62 62H). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 (413) 786-0400, extension 283.

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Town of Agawam, where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental impact report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02202, Attention: MEPA Unit, referencing the above project.

By Mayor Christopher Johnson (Proponent)
Published: December 3, 1998



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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CLEMENT AND DOROTHY HOBBS, who've been married for 67 years, took home an African violet after the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



BACK ROW: Jayne Santucci, Jessica Santucci, Madison Munson, Brook Giguere, Catrine Edwards, and Summer Giguere. **FRONT ROW:** Rebecca Albrecht, Kirsten Giguere, and Courtney Donaldson.

Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

THANKSGIVING - from Page 2...

According to Art Theobald, the turkeys were cooked by Bethany Assembly of God on Main Street and brought over to the Feeding Hills Congregational Church for the feast. **Tony Renzulli** from Bethany helped in that endeavor, and also with stuffing and cake.

Carol Treganawan was responsible for coordinating transportation and deliveries of food and pick-up of people, including rides to and from the church. Delivery of meals included companionship for the Thanksgiving dinner, and anyone who has ever been unable to get out and about knows how much this gesture means. There was also help from **Michael Pietras** in this area.

Chick & Barbara Amsden have put on the Miteneague Church dinner over in West Springfield for 17 years and helped to guide the Agawam Parish Association to get this endeavor started. There was food exchanged as needed, including pumpkins, plants, and carved-out and decorated melons and fruit. The buffet was prepared for 408 servings, and there were over 100 deliveries made to people in their homes.

The Reverend Robert Donaldson came to Feeding Hills Congregational Church as pastor five years ago. He heard about the West Springfield Thanksgiving Program and helped with it, and he was bringing food back for Agawam people, so he wondered why not have a dinner here, too. **Kathy Manley** was looking to organize a project, so a Thanksgiving Dinner was a natural and there were many lay volunteers to meet the need. Also, Agawam has 16 churches, and although eight are presently members, St. John the Evangelist just joined, and soon maybe others will take part as well.

A special touch was the music; live harp music by **Jean Newman**. **Carol Treganawan** alluded to the last organizational meeting, when they were "in a quandry" about what to do for entertainment. About 10:00 p.m., Carol got a phone call and it was Jean who volunteered to play the Celtic harp. Jean's dad went to Agawam Congregational Church, so she wanted to do something for the event. It was a lovely sound, adding to the atmosphere which was both festive and pensive at the same time, and appropriate for the mood of giving thanks and appreciating the bounty of the creator.

Doug Donaldson, a junior at Agawam High School, brought out his guitar and began accompanying the harpist. The pair sounded great and added another feature to the highly spirited venture.

Carol Treganawan reviewed the many other gift-givers who gave so much to this effort. **Gail Freeman** and other workers at Agawam Senior Center collected names of people who would like dinners brought to their homes on Thanksgiving. **Betty Couture**, director of Food Services at Agawam Senior Center, was responsible for so many donations; two sheetcakes, pies, muffins, cakes, rolls, and bread.

Staff from the Senior Center, including Gail Freeman and many others, actually arrived at Feeding Hills Congregational on Wednesday and helped prepare vegetables. Carol noted, "They went far beyond the call of duty and their help was wonderful."

On top of that, **H.P. Hood** donated 300 cartons of milk, and there were monetary donations, and donations of turkeys from churches and businesses in the area.



CAROL TREGANAWAN, "transportation" coordinator for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

A local merchant gave dozens of potted African violets to the cause, and people were urged to take one home, along with platters of food and extra desserts. Everyone pitched in and helped clean up, putting chairs away and bringing plates to the kitchen. Youngsters from the church really pitched in and helped with coffee serving and clean-up, and their participation helped to give a happy mood to the day.

By way of recapping the purpose of the occasion, Rev. Donaldson reflected, "It wasn't that long ago that churches were the center of community life. We've let ourselves get busy with other things and this is a chance for people to stop and give thanks and come together again as a community under God."

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Regular Council Meeting Agenda For Monday, December 7th

1. Citizen's Speak Time.
2. Roll Call.
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 11/4/98 (Tabled on 11/16/98); Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of November 16, 1998.
5. Declaration from Council President.
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials, & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-98-35- A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Robert Watson, Jr., 271 Elm St., Agawam, MA to the Agawam Housing Authority for a Five Year Term Expiring the Second Monday of January in the Year 2004 (Mayor).

2. TR-98-36- A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Julie Siciliano, 76 Elm St., Agawam, MA and Victor Carra, 69 Morningside Circle, FH, MA to the Agawam Municipal Golf Commission for Three Year Terms Expiring December 31, 2001 (Mayor).

7. Report of Council Committees

- Comm. on Rules - Coun. Negrucchi.
- Comm. on Ordin. - Coun. Magovern.
- Comm. on Utilities - Coun. Caba.
- Comm. on Licenses - Coun. Bitzas.
- Comm. on St. Accept. - Coun. Young.

8. Elections

None

9. Public Hearings

(a)

1. PH-98-9-(TO-98-42)-Applications-Gas Storage Permit-DPW Operational Facility, 1347 Main St., Agawam, MA - Request for 6,000 gal. aboveground diesel fuel & 3,000 gal. aboveground gasoline (Conduct Public Hearing).

10. Old Business

(a)

1. TOR-98-5-An Ordinance to Amend Art II. of Ch. 114 of the Code of the Town of Agawam Entitled Second Hand Motor Vehicles and to Delete Regulation No. 1 of the Rules & Regulations of the Agawam Town Council (Submitted by the Agawam Rules Comm.)(Tabled on 11/16/98)(2nd Reading).

2. TO-98-40-Approval of Class II Dealer Licenses No. 55, No. 58, No. 60 and No. 70 (Coun. Bitzas).

After A Decade Of Being Dormant...

Town Council Street Acceptance Committee To Deal With Backlog

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Dormant for more than a decade, the Town Council Street Acceptance Committee is coming out of hibernation with an ambitious plan to deal with the backlog of more than 200 unaccepted streets and to prevent new streets from being added to the list by requiring street acceptance as part of the Planning Board site plan review process.

Chaired by Councilor Robert Young, the Street Acceptance Committee agreed Monday night to sponsor an ordinance changing the rules for accepting public ways. Under the timetable proposed by Young, the ordinance will appear for the first time on the council's agenda next Monday night. After review by council Ordinance and Zoning Committees and the full council, the final reading of the ordinance is expected in February (with Young's committee beginning work on the backlog in March).

Young's list of recommendations includes:

- holding public hearings at a central location rather than on the street;
- documenting the rights and privileges of accepted streets versus private ways;
- scheduling monthly meetings of the committee beginning in March to address new streets; and...

- scheduling five currently unaccepted streets in alphabetical order for review each month.

The committee members are Councilors Nancy Thompson and Jill Simpson and Superintendent of Public Works John P. Stone. The committee is charged with holding public hearings, making recommendations to Town Council, and processing the petitions for street acceptance. Streets are accepted by a vote of Town Council.

Under the terms of the new ordinance, petitions for street acceptance can be filed by the owners of 75 percent of the abutting lots, the Superintendent of Public Works, or the Planning Board. Petitions for street acceptance are referred to the Street Acceptance Committee. The committee must schedule a public hearing and display a plan

showing the layout of the proposed public way.

If no plan exists, the DPW will provide a cost estimate for preparing a plan. If there are no private or private funds to pay for the plan, the public hearing is postponed indefinitely.

Following the public hearing, the committee will present the petition to the Mayor (along with a summary of the public comments and a report from the DPW superintendent) regarding present and future costs to the community of accepting the street.

After receiving the Mayor's recommendations, the committee will send waiver of damage forms to all abutters and will also prepare an estimate of eminent domain damages in the event that all abutters do not waive the right to payment.

"I don't think there would be any damages as eminent domain is based on the diminution of the value of the property. I think property would be worth less on a private way than a public way," Mayor Christopher C. Johnson said.

After a 30-day waiting period, the committee will review the public comments, the recommendations of the DPW and the Mayor, the street plan, and the estimate of eminent domain costs before making a written recommendation to the full council.

Before A City Or Town "Accepts" A Street...

Until a city or town officially "accepts" it, a street is owned by the developer and then later by the homeowners who purchase the homes. Most people probably don't know if they are living on a public way or an unaccepted street. But, it's a pretty safe bet that if your street was built after the town switched to the manager form of government in the 1970's, it was never accepted as a public way. Meaning, you own the street, and could be liable for slip and fall accidents on sidewalks and accidents that occur as a result of a defect in the roadway.

SEE STREET ACCEPTANCE - Page 7...



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Annual Fundraiser

102 Suffield Street, Agawam
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STREET ACCEPTANCE - from Page 6...

Recent attempts by homeowners to assert their private property right of street ownership to block developers from connecting new developments to existing subdivisions brought the issue of unaccepted streets to the forefront. Currently, the town provides unaccepted streets with snow plowing, trash pickup, street lighting, and regular maintenance, including pothole patching, sealing cracks, cleaning catch basins, line painting, and sidewalk repairs.

But, the town is prevented by state law from spending public funds for major street repairs like reconstruction, resurfacing, storm drain installation or replacement, or sidewalk installation or replacement, according to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson.

"The first issue is what services should the town be providing on a private way," Johnson said. "You can't exercise private property rights without assuming the responsibilities of ownership. It's clear under the law we cannot appropriate public funds for unaccepted ways and there is a question as to our right of access to maintain water, sewer, and storm drains."

There are no immediate plans to alter the services being provided to private ways, but the committee agreed that the town should document the rights and privileges of accepted streets as opposed to private ways.

Stone said streets used to be accepted as public ways at town meeting. Under the town manager and later the mayor form of government, the Town Council Street Acceptance Committees have been mainly dormant, with the exception of the committee chaired by former Councilor John Shaughnessy in the 1980's.

Researching Methods in Other Communities...

Stone said he is researching the methods other communities use in accepting streets in preparation for getting the street acceptance process back on track. In Northampton, homeowners are notified that the street is being taken by eminent domain with no payment and that city services will not be provided if there are any objections. Also, Northampton uses a methodology that avoids incurring the cost of a land survey if there is no existing street acceptance plan for a particular street or subdivision.

Suggestions for preventing more streets from being added to the list of private ways include having the Planning Board require a street acceptance plan as part of the site plan review process; requiring developers to deed over the property under the street to the town during development; and having the Planning Board petition for street acceptance when the construction bond has been released.

Stone said having the land the street is to be built on deeded to the town will give the town more control over the quality of the road construction.

Earlier this year, residents of Sheri Lane successfully prevented their private street from being used as a second means of access for the Willow Glenn Estates Phase II subdivision by refusing to allow through traffic onto their street. Without the second means of access, the plan to extend Lancaster Lane exceeded the length restriction for a dead-end street and the plan was rejected by the Planning Board.

Johnson said blocking development by asserting private property rights thwarts the public planning process and defeats the purpose of having a planned community.

"Subdivisions are laid out with easements in anticipation of the next phase of development," Johnson said. "Having two-way access is not meant to be an inconvenience to the homeowners. It is a safety issue providing two means of access to emergency vehicles."

Johnson said what is most frightening to homeowners is the possible liability for accidents on unaccepted ways if there is an allegation that the accident was caused by a defect in the road. On accepted streets, the town bears the liability.

But, the town must have been made aware of the defect in advance of the claim and there is a \$5,000 limit on damages. Private property owners have no damage limits or notice requirements, Johnson said.

Agawam Post Office Offers Extended Hours For The Holidays

The Agawam Post Office will be offering extended hours for the holidays.

The extended hours are as follows:

Saturdays, December 12 and 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sundays, December 13th and 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Our classified ads will bring you FAST, FAST results...

State Representative Keenan's Office Has Brochure With Sample MCAS Questions

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan took the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test, students in the fourth, eighth, and 10th grades took their MCAS tests, and now you have the opportunity to sample the test. Contact Keenan's district office to receive a brochure with three sample questions from the test.

Students who took the test in May of 1998 reported that these were the toughest tests they had ever taken. The content was challenging, the length of time for the test was demanding, and the standards on which the tests were based are not yet fully implemented in every school and district. The subjects of the MCAS tests administered were English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science & Technology.

The results from the MCAS are a powerful tool. MCAS results provide invaluable information for diagnosing strengths and needs of individual students, schools, and districts, as well as a baseline to measure future improvements. The statewide results have been released, and it is clear from these results more work needs to be done.

To receive a copy of the MCAS brochure which contains sample questions, or more information about the MCAS, contact Keenan's district office at (413) 786-4545.

MCAS measures the performance of students, schools, and districts on the academic learning standards contained in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, fulfilling requirements of the Education Reform Law of 1993.

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"A Piece Of The News"

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

First Home Schooled Graduate

Next year could see the first high school student in Agawam graduate from home schooling, according to Deputy Superintendent of Schools **Donald Charest**.

Nationally, there are 1.3 million students who stay home for schooling. In Agawam, 11 families have chosen to teach their children at home. The 23 home scholars are enrolled in grades Pre-K through the 11th grade.

In the 15 years since state law covering home schooling has been in effect, the number of Agawam students who are getting an education at home has been steadily increasing each year.

"Typically, by the time the students reach eighth grade, they wind up back in the public schools or join us for the first time," Charest said. "Not one youngster has graduated from high school as a home schooler, but we have one student who will next year."

Charest said the School Department cannot grant a high school diploma to a home schooled student. Rather, a letter can be given recognizing 12 years of home schooling and the type of work the student has done.

Like their peers in public school, home schoolers are required to attend school for 180 days a year and parents must get prior approval of the School Department before they can begin home schooling. The progress of home schoolers is monitored by yearly progress reports, occasional testing, and face-to-face progress interviews with the deputy superintendent.

"I haven't read a progress report yet that hasn't impressed the heck out of me," Charest said. "We also do spot checks and we have the younger kids bring their projects and their work to my office. They enjoy it and so do I."

Charest said parents must submit an application each year with information detailing the curriculum, books, teaching schedule, and teacher background. While the School Department will provide home schoolers with a copy of the public school curriculum for a fee, books and other teaching materials purchased with tax dollars cannot be provided to home or private schools, Charest said.

School Choice

Three years after the School Committee agreed to participate in the School Choice Program that allows students from out of town to attend school here, school officials say the program has been successful.

Under School Committee policy, up to 35 students from other school districts can be accepted into Agawam schools. Currently, there are

29 students enrolled under School Choice - 11 at the High School; four at the Junior High; three at the Middle School; four at both Phelps and Granger; two at Robinson; and one at Clark School.

Deputy Superintendent **Donald Charest** said out-of-district students must apply for admission to the system and must be interviewed by principals and school administrators before being accepted into the district. To date, 10 students have been denied based on their disciplinary records.

Under School Choice, the state reimburses receiving school districts for 75 percent of the per pupil cost for each school choice student accepted into a district. Conversely, the sending district loses state funds for each school choice student who leaves the district.

"In our first year with school choice, we generated \$55,000, which was used to purchase science books," Charest said. "For the second year, we anticipate more than \$100,000 coming back from the state and next year, it will be in the vicinity of \$150,000."

This year, 37 students left the district under school choice. The majority, 24 students, are attending schools in Southwick; the rest are going to school in Springfield, Longmeadow, Granby, Westfield, and Wilbraham.

In response to questions from School Committee woman **Teresa Kozloski**, Charest said there are two reasons that explain why more than half of the School Choice students leaving Agawam are high school students. Charest said some students were asked to leave Agawam High School and others leave as a convenience to their parents.

School Committee Chairman (Mayor) **Christopher C. Johnson** pointed out that Southwick has been involved in School Choice since the program began in 1989 and has heavily advertised School Choice as a means of bringing revenue into the school system.

"Of the students going to Southwick, many at the high school have been in the system since elementary school," Johnson said. "We can't assume those at the high school left now; we can assume they've been there several years."

Eleven students from Agawam attend Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, seven attend Longmeadow High School, two attend Westfield High School, Springfield, Granby, and Wilbraham have one student from Agawam attending high school.

Zoning Advisory Board

At last week's meeting, the Zoning Advisory Board continued its review of the exiting zoning

code and set some guidelines for the interview process in selecting an expert consultant to revise and recodify the zoning code.

The consultant will probably be an attorney with the experience in zoning reform and will be expected to make sure the existing code conforms with state laws and case law; identify any inconsistencies and illegalities within the code; identify any glaring omissions; and prepare a revised zoning code correcting the problems and addressing important land use questions.

Chairman (Town Councilor) **Gina Letellier** said the board has received four applications for the post, but only two of the attorneys who applied appear to have the necessary experience.

After discussing several options for interviewing the candidates, the board agreed to narrow the field to two candidates who will be interviewed in public session by the full board. The board members will develop a list of questions that will be asked of each candidate.

"I'd like the interview to be open to the public so that we can't be second-guessed. The decision will be based on an open, fair, and equitable basis," said member **Mark Hellstein**.

Ms. Letellier agreed to draft a letter to the candidates detailing the board's expectations for the project, the timeline, and the budget. The candidates will be asked to submit resumes, references, previous recodification work, as well as their ideas on what changes or revisions will be needed to Agawam's zoning code. In addition, the board wants to know how many man hours the project will take and how much of the work will be done by subordinates.

Planning Director **Deborah S. Dachos** said the candidates will each receive a copy of the zoning code and will be expected to meet with town zoning officials to determine what the problems are within the code.

"We expect the candidates to have read our zoning code and be ready to make some suggestions," Ms. Dachos said.

Ms. Letellier said the board would make their final recommendations on the letter to the applicants at the December 14th meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Candidates will be expected to reply before the board's January 6th meeting.

In reviewing the zoning code for Business A and Business B districts, Building Inspector **Dominic Urbinati** recommended special permits from the Zoning Board of Appeals for hotels, businesses with residences above, gas stations, repair garages, amusement parks, and bowling alleys.

At their next meeting, the board will review the code for the industrial zone.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Nelson E. Hulse

Nelson E. Hulse, 97, of 259 Cooper Street, Agawam, died recently in Springfield's Mercy Hospital.

He was a chief electrician for Gilbert & Barker Co. of West Springfield for 42 years and retired in 1965.

Born in West Haven, Connecticut, he lived in Agawam from 1952.

He was a member of the Congregational Church and the Palmer Grange.

His wife, Alice F. Hulse, died in 1995.

He leaves a son, Robert N. of Agawam; a brother, Chester E. of Monson; a sister, Frances E. Chiabrandy of Concord; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral was private, with burial in Center Cemetery. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Congregational Church Capital Fund, 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Wilma E. Lewis

Wilma E. Lewis, 91, of Maple Street, Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a homemaker and a Methodist.

Born in New York City, she resided in Delray Beach, Florida, for many years before moving to Agawam in 1989.

She leaves a son, Roland of Temecula, California; a daughter, E. Wilma Ravenola of Agawam; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 29 Crafts Street, Newton, MA 02158.

Carmella Magagnoli

Carmella "Jennie" (Langone) Magagnoli, 73, of Feeding Hills, died recently at home.

She was a 25-year machine operator at Buxton Co. of Agawam, retiring in 1980.

Born in Springfield, she was a 20-year resident of Feeding Hills.

She attended Cathedral High School and was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

Hills.

She was president for 10 years of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society Women's Auxiliary.

She was a member of the Adriatic Club of Springfield, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Women's Club of Enfield, and the Springfield Golden Age Club.

Her husband, Delmo L. Magagnoli, died on October 6th.

She leaves a son, Frank P. of Feeding Hills; a sister, Anna Acosta of Feeding Hills; and a grandson.

The funeral was held at Forastiere Funeral Home of Springfield, with a Mass in the church and burial in Springfield Street Cemetery, both in Feeding Hills.

Elizabeth Tefs

Elizabeth (Huber) Tefs, 92, of 464 Main Street, Agawam, died recently in a local nursing home.

She was a bookkeeper for area accounting offices.

She was born in Munich, Germany, and lived in Agawam for many years.

She was a member of the Agawam Historical Society and the Agawam Garden Club.

Her husband, Felix E. Tefs, died in 1959.

A graveside service was held in Center Cemetery, and Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Peter A. Cerrone

Peter A. Cerrone, 77, of 112 Main Street, Agawam, a decorated World War II cavalryman, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a carpenter's foreman at the former Johnson Asbestos Co. of West Springfield for 25 years. He retired in 1977.

Born and schooled in Springfield, he moved to West Springfield in 1966 and later to Agawam.

An Army veteran of World War II, he was a sergeant with A Troop of the 12th Cavalry Regiment in the Pacific Theater. He took part in the 1945 liberation of the Philippine Islands and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

He also received the Purple Heart, the Philippine liberation ribbon with two bronze service stars, and an Asiatic-Pacific theater ribbon.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, a member of Springfield Local

108 of the Carpenters Union, and a former member of the Knights of Columbus.

His wife, the former Lucy T. Mango, died in 1969.

He leaves two sons, Ross P. of Springfield and Richard T. of Agawam; a daughter, Joanne Cerrone Breton of Worcester County; two sisters, Mary Grippo of Suffield and Lena Kelliher of East Longmeadow; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A military funeral was held at Forastiere Funeral Home of Springfield and the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 29 Crafts Street, Newton, MA 02158.

Walter T. Gurski

Walter T. Gurski, 72, of 110 Parker Street, Agawam, died recently at home.

He was an inspector at the Springfield Armory for 25 years and later a security guard at Springfield Technical Community College. He retired in 1988.

Born in Wilbraham, he lived in Agawam for 37 years.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and took part in the 1945 Rhineland campaign.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in West Springfield, a former member of the Unity Club in Ludlow, and a member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 55 of Agawam-West Springfield.

He leaves his wife, the former Elizabeth B. Rosner; three sons, Robert W. and William I. of Agawam, and David M. of Hampden; a sister, Helen Falardeau of Indian Orchard; his step-mother, Mary Gurski of Ludlow; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Western Massachusetts, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058, or the First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, 337 Piper Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 11...

"Grief Support Groups aren't for me."

I'm doing OK."



Many people have mistaken ideas about attending a support group. It really is not a matter of 'needing help' — it's an opportunity to be with others who truly understand what you are experiencing.

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For more information about our grief support groups call us at 786-2600.

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Hours:

Monday, 9-4; Tuesday-Thursday, 9-5;
Friday, 9-6; Saturday, 9-4

IRS Announces Names Of Agawam Residents Who've Yet To Receive 1997 Federal Refunds

Still waiting for your 1997 federal tax refund? The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 1,725 taxpayers whose checks were returned by the U.S. Postal Service.

Local taxpayers listed include Agawam residents Celeste V. Cola, Joseph J. Fiorentino, Giuseppe Giucastro, and Vivienne Decd Irwin.

Check amounts range from \$3 to \$23,478. They were undeliverable because of incorrect names and addresses or because taxpayers moved and did not give the IRS their new address.

"If you are due a refund and have not received it, call the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040," said IRS District Director Steve Daige. "Our phone lines are open Monday through Saturday, from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., so call us to check on the status of your refund check."

Choosing to have your tax refund deposited directly to your bank account is the best way to ensure that your check is delivered and to guard against loss or theft. Last year, 19.2 million taxpayers nationwide chose the direct-deposit option by filling in just two extra lines on their tax forms.

If you have moved since your last return, the IRS urges you to file a Form 8822, "Change of Address." You may obtain this form by calling 1-800-829-3676 or by downloading it from the IRS Web site, www.irs.ustreas.gov.

Nationally, the number of undelivered checks - 99,042 checks totalling \$68 million - is dwarfed by the total number of refunds issued by the IRS. In 1998, 82.8 million taxpayers received refunds.

Check our classifieds each & every week!

Doris Ella Melanson

Doris Ella Melanson, 82, died Tuesday, November 10, 1998 at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, Vermont.

She was born in Springfield on Feb. 29, 1916. She was the daughter of James Lincoln and Ella Mae (Mansfield) Morrison.

She received her early education in Agawam schools and graduated from Agawam High School in 1933. In earlier years, she had worked in the family business, Morrison's Florist, in Agawam. She later worked at Forbes & Wallace in Springfield for many years. She was a member of the Agawam Congregational Church.

Surviving are her companion, Bill Johnson, of Leicester, Vermont; one son, Leslie H. Melanson of Agawam; four daughters, Dorothy Ella LaFleur, Jane I. Bilodeau, and Shirley A. Plyler, all of Agawam, and Claire M. Myrick of Weybridge, Vermont; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two nephews; and several cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond L. Melanson, and brother, James Morrison, Jr.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church. Burial will be in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001, c/o Property Committee.

Douglas E. Ploof

Douglas E. Ploof, 80, of 8 Salem Road, Southwick, died Sunday, November 29th, at home. Born in Barre, Vermont, he lived in Agawam before moving to Southwick in 1955.

He had worked for over 30 years at Pratt & Whitney, retiring in 1977 as a quality control supervisor. He was a World War II Army veteran, and was the former head of the Boy Scout Troop in Agawam.

His wife, the former Mary A. Noonan, died in 1996. He leaves three daughters, Beverly A. Costa of Southwick, R. Elaine Vecchio of Feeding Hills, and Sheila M. Larkin of Southwick; a sister, Madeline Bitgood of Agawam; eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at the Agawam Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Activity Department of Riverdale Gardens Nursing Home, 49 Prospect Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998 at 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the appeal of WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY (WMECO), who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-63, of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a South Agawam Substation New 115kV Switching Station at the premises identified as: 38 MOYLAN LANE.

Larry Hoague
Acting Chairman

Published: December 3, 1998

All the hometown news with us...

* * *



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Veterans' Corner...

Important Info Regarding Vietnam Veterans

by Ruth C. Bitzas
Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

Several weeks ago, I explained in this column how there is a certain segment of Vietnam veterans who are not eligible under state law to receive the Massachusetts Bonus. Therefore, it is impossible for us to obtain their discharge papers from the War Records Department.

While they meet the state guideline under Chapter 4 of the Mass. General Laws' definition of a war-time veteran, they *do not* meet the state guideline for Bonus eligibility. The service period not covered for Bonus eligibility is from 1 February 55 - 30 Jun 58 with a minimum of 180 days service. Also, the period from 1 April 73 - 6 May 75 with a minimum of 90 days of service.

War Records only has discharges for veterans who were approved for State Bonus because the Bonus application included the need for a copy of the veteran's DD 214 (discharge).

Since we have no way of obtaining discharges on veterans serving during these periods, the onus of responsibility falls upon these veterans or their families to come forward to provide documentation of military service to have their names included on the Honor Roll.

This past week, Agawam resident Lawrence Pisano, Jr. came to our office to check whether his name and the name of his brother, Richard, were going to be included on our Honor Roll for Vietnam War service. We did *not* have either name on our Vietnam list because both served during the above mentioned period. We had no way of obtaining their discharges and had none on file here in our office.

Next week, we will begin publishing our Vietnam list and because Mr. Pisano inquired and provided a copy of his discharge, *his name will be included on our Honor Roll*. When Richard provides his discharge, his name will be included as well.

ANY OTHER VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED DURING THE DATES LISTED ABOVE WILL ONLY HAVE THEIR NAMES INCLUDED ON THE

HONOR ROLL IF THEY PROVIDE OUR OFFICE WITH A COPY OF THEIR DISCHARGES SHOWING THEIR HOME OF RECORD AS AGAWAM. VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF VETERANS, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE BECAUSE THIS IS SO IMPORTANT.

This will be our last week for the Korean War list of veterans whose Home of Record is Agawam. Next week, look for Agawam Vietnam War veterans whose last name begins with the letter "A."

If you have any questions, call Veterans Services, Agawam Town Hall, at the above number.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: "Freedom was not given to us by someone else... It was fought for."

KOREAN WAR - "T," "U," "V," "W," "Y," & "Z"
Arthur F. Tacy, Joseph F. Tangocci, Donald H. Taylor, Albert Tessicini, Spencer J. Therrien, Roger F. Thomas, Joseph A. Tonelli, Joe R. Tortoriello, John R. Tortoriello, Ronald C. Trevallion, John E. Unwin, Jr.

Patrick J. Vassallo, Elio Vieceilli, Lawrence R. Viens, James Votzakos.

Wayne H. Waite, David E. Walsh, Edward A. Waniewski, Elmer R. Warner, Robert M. Webler, Roy F. Webler, Bartholomew J. Wells, Robert W. Wells, Ronald R. Wells, William G. Wells, Warren E. Whitaker, Justin E. Wilke, Jr., John H. Williams, Jr., Harry A. Wisell, Zdzislaw Witaszek, Alexander J. Woishnis, Alfred R. Woishnis, Earl S. Wood, Norman R. Wood, Constance J. Wougick, Kenneth E. Wright, Meredith Wright

Peter P. Yezierski.
Vincent S. Zucco.

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Agawam Police Explorers To Take Pictures With Santa

The Agawam Police Explorers will be taking pictures with Santa on Saturday and Sunday, December 12th and 13th. The cost will be \$3 per picture.

This event will be held at Boglich and Sons Farm on Main Street in Agawam. It will be run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days.

If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser, call Stephen Antaya at 786-0445.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

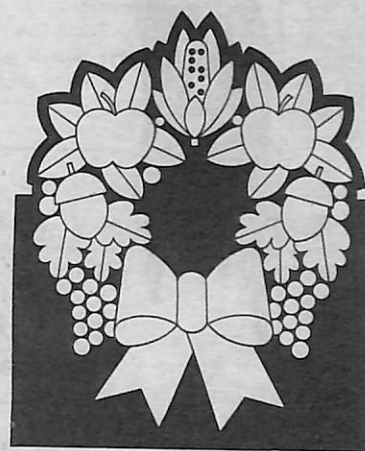
TOWN COUNCIL AGAWAM, MA

The Agawam Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 7, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on the application of Dept. of Public Works Operational Facility for a license to keep, store for personal use/or re-sale of petroleum products in underground tanks or above ground not to exceed 9000 gallons at 1347 Main Street in the Town of Agawam, MA.

Richard M. Theroux
Town Clerk

Published: December 3, 1998

ADVERTISER NEWS



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Forastiere Family Holds Installation & Dedication Of Flagpole

Cities and towns across the nation paid homage to veterans of all wars between November 1st and 15th to thank them for the sacrifices they made to provide generations to come with "peace of mind."

In the Town of Agawam, the Forastiere family and staff of Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home at 985 Main Street, held their veterans' tribute on Saturday, November 7th, with the dedication of a newly-installed flagpole on the front lawn of the funeral home and the raising of the flag.

Peter Forastiere, vice president of Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, acted as master of ceremonies and welcomed those gathered on the front lawn of the funeral home. He said it was an honor to have the ceremony to commemorate the veterans who "sacrificed to preserve the freedom that many take for granted."

"We are pleased that in a small way, we can honor veterans in our community for their sacrifice. We are proud to be part of the ceremonies taking place during Veterans' Week," he noted, adding, "It is very fitting to have the flagpole dedication and raising of the flag ceremony located just down the street from the Massachusetts Memorial Veterans' Cemetery. The new cemetery, located on Main Street, is a wonderful asset to the town and the region."

The cemetery is expected to open in two years. However, applications for acceptance can be obtained at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home or the Town Veterans' Agent in the Town Hall.

Rev. Curt Fuller, pastor of Agawam Congregational Church, bestowed a blessing reiterating how wonderful it is that the Forastiere family chose to honor veterans in this way.

Mayor Christopher Johnson brought the greetings of the community and spoke about how nice it is to have a flag displayed in front of the funeral home on Main Street. He said he hoped more businesses on Main Street would follow the example set forth by the Forastieres and erect flagpoles to fly our flag. He would like to see flags all up and down Main Street.



RUTH BITZAS, Veterans' Service Agent, addresses the group in attendance during the flagpole dedication as Peter Forastiere, funeral home vice president and master of ceremonies, looks on.

Ruth Bitzas, Veterans' Service Agent for Agawam and the surrounding suburban communities, commented on how supportive Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and Peter Forastiere have been, especially to those veterans with limited finances. "They have gone beyond what the State provides to honor veterans."

It was very special to have an honor guard delegation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1632 and the American Legion Post 185, along with a fine representation from both groups. The ceremony was very moving and impressive as both groups together took part in the unfolding and raising of the flag.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed, led by the Agawam Police Explorers and Boy Scout Troop

78. Both groups were in uniform and were well-represented.

Also in attendance were members of the Veterans' Council, staff of the Agawam Senior Center, and members of the Council On Aging and "Friends." Fr. Bill Rousseau, pastor of St. Theresa Church, was also there, as well as local veterans and townspeople.

A bronze plaque imbedded in granite at the base of the flagpole was unveiled by Jonathan Raymond, funeral home staff member. The plaque reads: "Dedicated to all the men and women who served in all wars. Nov. 7, 1998."

Following the ceremony, visitors were invited into the Open House for refreshments and tours of the funeral home. Inside, visitors viewed a display of special caskets and cremation urns

SEE FLAGPOLE- Page 14...

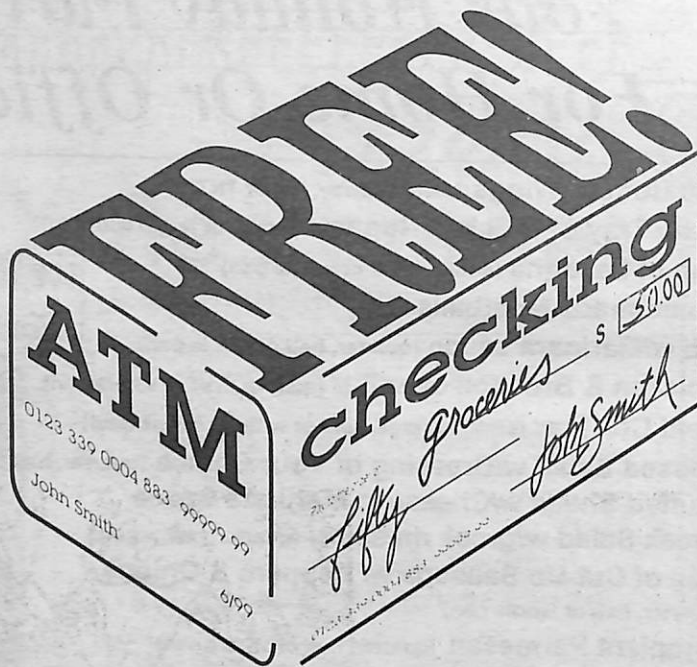
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DPW Reminds Residents Of Winter Parking Regulations

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to advise residents of the ordinances regulating on-street winter parking between November 15th and April 15th.

The Department of Public Works has been empowered to declare on-street parking bans for the purpose of snow and ice removal and tow any vehicle parked on streets in violation of these bans. Any person whose vehicle is removed is responsible for the cost of towing and storage and is subject to an additional fine in the amount of \$25.

It is the intent of the Department of Public Works to declare bans against any on-street parking whenever a snowstorm of plowable magnitude is forecast. Residents should tune to local radio and television stations.

In order for the Department to efficiently and effectively clear snow, it is important that no vehicles be parked on the streets. Parked vehicles result in ridges of snow and ice that reduces the travelled width of the roadway and endangers the public. Costly repaving is required to clear the residue. Residents should be forewarned that the Department will remove vehicles violating any parking ban.

Residents are also advised that it is their responsibility to remove snow and control ice on the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the end of a storm.

The Department of Public Works is only empowered to plow sidewalks on major streets where children are required to walk to school.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week...



MEMBERS OF THE Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1632 and the American Legion Post 185 participated in the flag-raising ceremony at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home at 985 Main Street, Agawam.

FLAGPOLE - from Page 13...

designed to honor those serving in the Armed Forces.

There was also a display of brochures, pre-arrangement funeral information, and the rules and regulations for the new Veterans' Cemetery, as well as applications for space in the new cemetery.

"Families who have already pre-arranged their funerals can be assured that the funeral home will safely store the cremated remains until the

cemetery opens," said Peter Forastiere.

Members of the staff in attendance were Robert Martin, Troy Mathews, JoAnn Forastiere Skiba, Sylvia Forastiere, John Piccoli, and Jonathan Raymond. The special ceremony was well-received by everyone in attendance. It was an opportunity to learn first-hand what is available to veterans and their families.

Anyone wishing any of the above information may call the funeral home at 786-2600.

All the local news with us, each and every week...

Happy Holidays!

E.B.'s

*Let Us Help Plan
Your Holiday Party
For Home Or Office*

- * 150 Buffalo Wings (mild, midway, hot or TNT)
- * Party Tray of Chicken Nuggets (small or large; with dip)
- * Pan of Lasagna (quarter, half or whole pan)
- * Home-made Meatballs
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- * Chicken & Broccoli over Ziti (quarter, half or whole pan)
- * Cold Cut Tray (small or large, with or without Roast Beef)
- * Tossed Salad w/Dressing of Your Choice (quarter, half or whole pan)
- * Stuffed Shells w/Cheese in Marinara Sauce
- * Greek Salad w/greek dressing (quarter, half, whole)
- * Pan of Cut-Up Sausage w/ Peppers & Onions (quarter, half or whole pan)
- * Eggplant Parmesan (quarter, half or whole pan)
- * Raw Vegetable Platter (small or large)
- * Other Selections From Our Menu Available, Please Inquire

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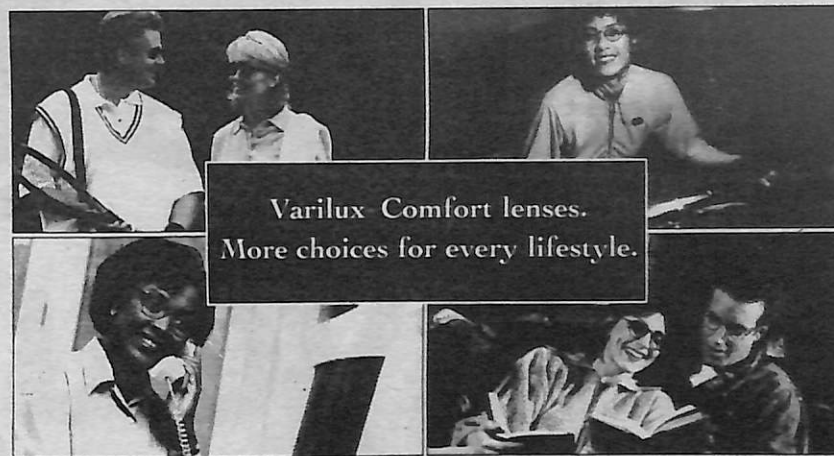
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Active people will appreciate the added safety of polycarbonate lenses, and we also offer thin, lightweight 1.6 High-Index Plastic and **Ormax** 1.55 Index Plastic lenses. For

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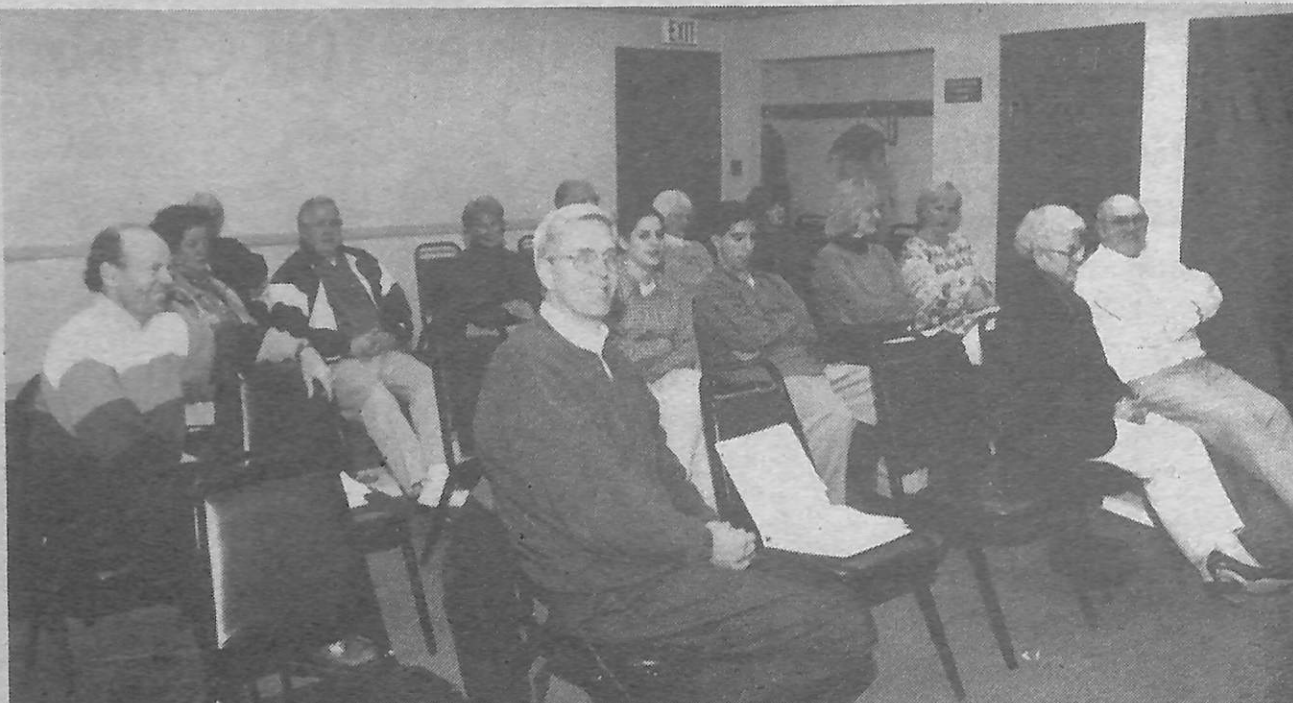


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Citizen Police Academy Graduates Its Sixth Class



THE AGAWAM POLICE DEPARTMENT has graduated its sixth Citizen Police Academy (pictured above). The class was held from September 22nd to November 24th and covered many topics and areas of police work at the Agawam Police Department. The next academy class is scheduled for February 1999, with applications being accepted in January. IN LEFT PHOTO: Sgt. Steve Draghetti with Howard Safford of the District Attorney's office. Advertiser

News photos by Jack Devine.

Rep. Keenan Offers Consumer Guide To Electric Industry

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan has a Consumers' Guide to Understanding Changes in the Electric Industry in Massachusetts available at his district office.

Please contact Rep. Keenan's district office on 342 Springfield Street, Agawam, at 786-4545.

For the first time, electricity customers can choose their electricity supplier. This free comprehensive consumer education guide contains important information about the restructuring of the electric industry and how customers can choose their power supplier.

The Electric Restructuring Act of 1997 made important changes that affect all citizens in the Commonwealth. Please contact Rep. Keenan's district office to request your consumer guide.

Best local news - AAN!!!

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone!!! Please mail your ad with payment to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or stop by our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 10, 1998 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services for work to be performed on Main Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: December 3, 1998

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSION AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS 01001

Notice is hereby given under General Laws, Chapter 138 that Maria Cuccovia, d/b/a Maria's Pizza and Grinders, 605 Silver Street, Agawam, MA, has applied for Transfer of License, Change of Location. Change of Manager, from Betty's Townhouse, Inc., Suzanne Bottaro, Manager. Building consisting of: one story masonry building, containing a restaurant and banquet facility of approximately 5,000 square feet, seating capacity of 127, with entrance/exits for each section going into the parking area. Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 1998, at 7:00 P.M., in the Faolin Peirce Room, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

Robert Vanderhoof, Chairman
Richard A. DiLullo
John J. Chriscola, Jr.

Published: December 3, 1998

PARTHENON Pizzeria Restaurant

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Full Menu Available To Please Everyone's Taste!

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Families

Jr. Women's Club Conducting Food Drive For Christmas

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we had just enough food collected to distribute to 50 families for this holiday. The Agawam Junior Women's Club received very little from donations this year. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Our cupboard is bare for Christmas. The Feeding Hills Open Pantry does not give out food; it gives out vouchers for families to acquire food through the Open Pantry in West Springfield.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is still the only local organization that provides groceries for a week to needy families in Agawam and Feeding Hills for the two holidays. We usually by now collect enough for both holidays. So far this year, we had just enough food for the families on our Thanksgiving list.

Have you made your donation to the holiday basket drive yet for Christmas? Last year, due to an overwhelming generosity from our friends — YOU — we were able to provide meals to 54 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and clothes and toys to 153 children within Agawam and Feeding Hills.

We look forward to your generosity again this year. If you wish to donate new toys or canned goods, we have several drop-off boxes in Agawam and Feeding Hills; the locations are Westfield Savings Bank, Fitness First, Town Hall, Agawam Public Market, Feeding Hills Public Market, Sand-Castle Day Care, Agawam Public Library, Col-dwell Banker, and the Senior Center.

When you shop for your own holiday dinner, buy an extra of something for our needy friends. We are looking for the following canned and dry goods: canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, cake mixes, soap/toothpaste/brush, canned juice, prepared foods (shelf goods), stuffing, cereal, paper goods, pasta, soups, and canned meats (tuna, SPAM).

Also, if you wish to donate toys for children from ages one to 14, we will accept these also at the drop-off sites. If you would like to make a donation of a frozen turkey or a canned ham for a holiday basket, or school supplies or Agawam Theatre movie tickets as gifts for older children, please call Dee Adams at 786-9085 after 5:00 p.m.

Please remember that by purchasing one can of food or one toy, you may make the difference in a child's happiness during the holidays. Knowing that you CARE can make all the difference in the world. And, after all, isn't that what Christmas is all about.

Over 100 Celebrate Eddie's 40th



EDDIE SANTANIELLO, the popular owner of Bruno's Pizzeria in Feeding Hills, was recently shocked when he entered the banquet room of Theresa's Restaurant in Ware to find over 100 friends and family members shouting "Happy 40th Birthday." A wonderful dinner followed by dancing highlighted the evening. Above, Eddie is pictured with his family (from left) - Tina DiTomaso, Brian Montagna (son), Maria Santaniello (daughter), Bev (wife), Ed-die, Anna Santaniello (daughter), Umberto Santaniello (son), and Dan Montagna (son).

Spfld. Turnverein To Hold German Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m., the Cultural Committee of the Springfield Turnverein will sponsor a celebration of Christmas in Germany in a traditional manner, with music, singing, stories, and plenty of Stollen and a Feuerzangen-bowle.

If you have not experienced the Feuerzangen-bowle, don't miss this opportunity. Kurt Strehl is our authority with this special treat and invites all our friends to join us to get back to a traditional celebration.

If you have something that is especially dear to you in observance of the season, please bring it along to display and perhaps explain to others.

Please join us for an entertaining and perhaps educational afternoon.

Jr. Women's Club Accepting Kids' Letters To Santa

The Agawam Junior Women's Club, once again, is asking all good girls and boys to send their letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole.

Make sure you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with your letter so that Santa can reply.

Santa's elves enjoy delivering your letters to Santa and Mrs. Claus as it brings them good cheer on this joyous holiday season. To get your letter to the North Pole in time, address your envelope to SANTA, c/o 24 Tanglewood Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1527.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC in Massachusetts.

All the hometown news with us - AAN!!!



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Sunday, Dec. 13th
8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Italian Sporting Club
Cooper St., Agawam

Donation \$3
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Tickets available at the door or call
Sal Morassi @ 786-0177



MR. & MRS. SCOTT VANDEURZEN

Addie DiMare Becomes Bride Of Scott VanDeurzen

Niagara Falls provided beautiful background scenery for the recent wedding of Addie DiMare and Scott VanDeurzen.

They were united in marriage at the Falls in a garden ceremony surrounded by family and friends.

Addie is the daughter of Dave and Susan DiMare of Feeding Hills. She is a 1993 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1997 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a mechanical engineer for Kimberly Clark Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Scott is the son of John and Barb VanDeurzen of DePere, Wisconsin. He is a 1993 graduate of West DePere High School and a 1997 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a mechanical engineer for Oshkosh Truck Corporation in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Following a honeymoon in St. John, they now live in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Agawam Native Has A "Brush" With Greatness

You might say Tom Biseti's latest gig falls somewhere between Michelangelo's at the Sistine Chapel and Eldin's on *Murphy Brown*.

The painter labors for hours each day on his back, scaffolded to within arm's length of the ceiling. Some weeks he's on a ladder instead, neck craned backward and brush angled skyward.

All of this grueling contortion goes toward the creation of room after room of heavenly murals — all for one house. But the "Villa de Reve" — as Bill and Millie Gohres call their 10,000-square-foot, Las Vegas residence — is more like a European palace, with imported art pieces and fixtures covering just about every inch. Biseti's job is to help make this "Dream House" come true.

Biseti, a former resident of Agawam whose parents still live in town, has been a freelance artist since leaving the University of Hartford 30 years ago. He isn't really a live-in house painter, but after more than three years working under one roof, if his body isn't there, his mind usually is.

"I think about it 24 hours a day," says Biseti, who turned 47 on Monday, November 30th. "In the back of my dreams, there are always colors and sketches."

What stands out in the finished product is Biseti's ability as a trompe l'oeil artist. He's very good at giving visual distance to a wall, and he paints gardens that look like you can see off a balcony for a half mile.

Another Biseti quality is an eye for proportion. He's able to take a picture of famous art from a book, put it in the right size, and make it all come together in a room (this is exceptionally difficult, considering that the Gohres' home features such eccentricities as irregular angles and a 558-pound chandelier).

But, after suffering the normal droughts of a studio artist's career, Biseti has no complaints about a regular paycheck and finds the Gohres' go-with-the-flow spirit "liberating." Still, he can't wait to finish up so he can hit the canvas again.

"After this, I could probably crank one out in a half-hour," he said of his contemporary paintings, which are considered very unique and indicative of his true talent.

Agawam Lioness Schedules Annual Christmas Party For Monday, December 7th

The Agawam Lioness will hold their Christmas party on Monday, December 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at Alexander's Restaurant in Feeding Hills.

There will be a collection of canned goods, plus a collection of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats for adults and children.

The Lioness are offering for sale pillows featuring the covered bridge, and throws (color green) depicting historical buildings in Agawam. They would make nice holiday gifts.

Please call 786-1782 for further information.

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4" Pots Only **\$1.95** each

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Plain - **\$5.95**

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Available

Bows

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assorted colors

Illuminated Lawn Ornaments

Giant Snowman - Santa
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Lamp Post - Candles

Balsam Garland

Only **\$1.95** yard

Cemetery Pots & Logs

8" Pots - **\$6.95** 12" Logs - **\$10.95**

Watch the wreath & garland being made at the
Garden Center. Let us make your fresh wreath.

At Storowton Village...

Ag. Garden Club To Decorate For Yuletide Festival

The Agawam Garden Club will deck the Potter Mansion Kitchen in seasonal splendor for "Yuletide at Storowton" at Eastern States Exposition's Storowton Village Museum. The annual winter holiday festival is free to the public and takes place December 5th and 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members of the club will generously give their time, expertise, and materials to turn the kitchen areas of the historic building into a holiday wonderland of days past using wheat, fruit, nuts, berries, and greens to create their theme "Holiday Harvest" at the annual event.

The Jack Frost "Welcome the Winter" parade will kick off the Yuletide event on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. Adults and children may dress in their favorite interpretation of winter and join in a parade around the Village Green to compete for prizes. The rain date for the parade is Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

The Village will be bustling with a variety of activities that will fill visitors with holiday cheer throughout the two-day occasion, including tours of the beautifully decorated historic buildings, storytelling, musical performances, lectures, 19th-century craft demonstrations, ice sculpting, and barnyard animals to pet. Caroling and a tree-lighting ceremony will round out the festivities at 4:00 p.m. on the Gazebo, and children will have a chance to visit with an old-fashioned Santa throughout each day.

Gifts and holiday decorations will also be for sale throughout the Village. Delectable treats are available in the Holiday Sweet Shoppe in Potter Mansion, and holiday gift items may be purchased at the Storowton Village Gift Shop in the Phillips House.

The Storowton Village Gift Shop will also be open for extended holiday hours through December 19th; Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Gift Shop hours from December 21st through 24th will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Gift Shop will return to regular winter hours (with the exception of holidays), Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The entire family will delight in the beauty of an old-fashioned holiday at "Yuletide at Storowton," Storowton Village Museum's gift to the community. Additional events taking place on the Exposition grounds December 5th and 6th are the "New England Holiday Antique Show" in the Young Building from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the "New England Yuletide Craft Spectacular" in the Stroh Building from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Village will also offer free, guided "Holiday House Tours," December 7th through 12th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., providing visitors with an opportunity to enjoy the Village's quaint dwellings beautifully decorated for the season. Tours may be combined with a hearty lunch at Storowton Tavern.

For more information on Yuletide events, call the Village at (413) 787-0136 or Eastern States Exposition at (413) 737-2443.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

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Are you too tired to enjoy your night?



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"Golly ... Has It Already Been 20 Years?"



PICTURED ABOVE are members of the reunion committee for Agawam High School's class of 1978: Lisa (Kamyk) Johnson, Cindy (Cormier) Bushey, Elsie (Brindle) Mallory, and Shelley (Borgatti) Reed. (Missing from photo: Casey (Lund) Ferguson). Their reunion was held last Saturday evening, November 28th, and everyone in attendance had a great time.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Junior Women's Club Has Collected Over \$2,900 For Thermal Imaging Unit

We're on our way! The Agawam Junior Women's Club has collected over \$2,900 through donations and fundraisers toward a Thermal Imaging Unit for the Agawam Fire Department.

We would like to express our appreciation to those businesses, organizations, and individuals who have already responded to our request for support for this very important equipment.

A Thermal Imaging Unit is necessary to help our Fire Department save lives! This equipment allows firefighters to see in a dark, smoke-filled room and will help them save a person or find the source of a fire. The cost of the unit will be \$25,000. We are in need of support from everyone

in the community in order to make this a reality.

For those who will be attending the Breakfast With Santa & Mrs. Claus this Sunday, Dec. 6th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the Agawam High School, we will have an informational video available which demonstrates just how necessary this equipment is. Please take the time to view the video or ask any questions you may have. Proceeds from the breakfast will also benefit the Helmet Fund.

If you would like to support this project, please send your donation to the Agawam Helmet Fund, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001. We thank you in advance for your support.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon!

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Mon. - Tues. - Wed. 9-4
Thurs. - Fri. 9-5

4 Washington Avenue Extension, Agawam

Jennifer Marshall To Wed Chris Pisano

Christopher Paul Pisano, formerly of Feeding Hills, plans to wed Jennifer Lynn Marshall, formerly of Fayetteville, Georgia. The wedding will take place at St. George's Catholic Church in Newnan, Georgia on April 17, 1999.

Chris is a 1987 graduate of Agawam High School, and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

He studied for his master's in broadcast journalism at Emerson College in Boston. Chris anchors the morning news for WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jennifer earned a bachelor's degree in advertising and French from the University of Georgia. She is the Senior Creative Services Producer at WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids.

Elizabeth and Lawrence Pisano, Jr. of Feeding Hills are the groom's parents. Tisha and Lawrence Pisano, Sr., also of Feeding Hills, are the groom's grandparents. Linda Marshall of Fayetteville, Georgia is the mother of the bride, survived by father Milton Marshall.

The couple will reside in Grand Rapids.



CHRISTOPHER PISANO & JENNIFER MARSHALL

Breakfast With Santa Slated For This Sunday

Santa is coming! Look for Santa and Mrs. Claus on Sunday, December 6th. He will be visiting the Agawam High School from 9:00-11:30 a.m. to meet all good boys and girls for a pancake and sausage breakfast.

He is asking that children bring their letters addressed to Santa, if they have not yet mailed them. Please include a return address if an answer is desired. Photos will be taken of Santa and your child upon request.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is sponsoring the breakfast and looks forward to the many children who attend every year. Tickets will be available at the door. Cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for children, and \$2 for each photo.

We will also be accepting donations for our Holiday Basket program and the Open Pantry. Any type of non-perishable items would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Party At Springfield Turnverein

The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Springfield Turnverein of Agawam, 176 Garden St., Feeding Hills, on Saturday, December 12th.

The dinner menu will include baked stuffed chicken breast, potatoes, vegetable, coffee, and cake. It will be served from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Reservations may be made with Wilma Gillan at 786-4671 or at the club at 786-0924. Deadline will be December 9th.

Following dinner, the Dan Kane Band will play for your dancing and listening pleasure.

The Ladies Glee Club and the Men's Singing Section will present German carols with a sing-along of the familiar and loved Christmas carols and music.

Tables for eight to 10 may be reserved or just make your reservation and we will place you at a table.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 7th: Meatball stroganoff with egg noodles, Mexicali corn, pumpernickel bread, banana.

Tuesday, December 8th: Baked chicken legs, sweet potatoes, lima beans, rye bread, brownies.

Wednesday, December 9th: Liver and onions, baked potato, spinach, whole wheat bread, jello with fruit.

Thursday, December 10th: Open-faced turkey sandwich, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, applesauce with raisins.

Friday, December 11th: Tuna noodle casserole, tossed salad, rye bread, peaches.

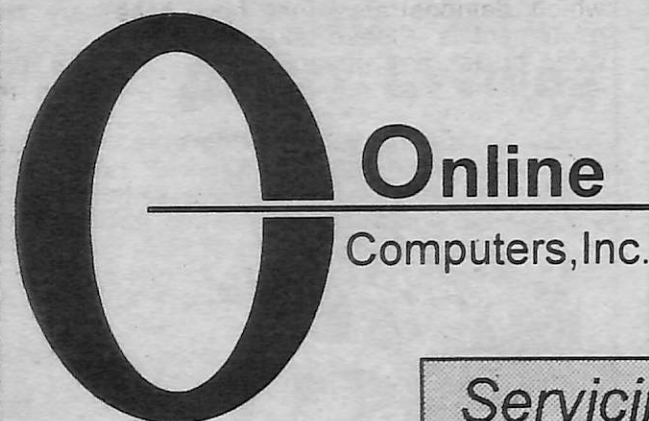
December Events For Agawam Golden Age Club (Chapter 1)

Friday, December 4th: The Board of Directors' Christmas Lunch Meeting at the Ivanhoe Restaurant in West Springfield.

Wednesday, December 9th: The Christmas Dinner Meeting at Chez Josef with the Agawam Senior Melody Band providing the Christmas entertainment.

Wednesday, December 23rd: Meeting Day at 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting, refreshment, and Gift Bingo will be played.

"May you all enjoy a happy and healthy Merry Christmas!"



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At Aviation Meeting... Agawam Jr. Women's

Club Offering 1998 Holiday Ornament

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is proud to present the 1998 holiday ornament. This year's ornament depicts the Agawam Town Hall, etched into the pewter ornament.

The back of the ornament states "Holiday Greetings, 1998, Agawam, Massachusetts, 8th Edition." The ornaments are made in the United States of America.

The ornaments are available for purchase at The Corner Deli, the Agawam Public Market, the Feeding Hills Public Market, and Surprise! Card and Gift Shop. We appreciate the opportunity these stores allow us in getting these ornaments out to the public. This year's ornament sells for \$6.

Some holiday ornaments from previous years are available for purchase at \$5 each. If interested, please call Betty Vershon at 786-4357.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Club and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.



Tai Chi Classes Offered On Mondays At Spfld. Turnverein

Tai Chi classes are being offered at the Springfield Turnverein every Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese form of exercise which improves concentration, coordination, flexibility, and balance. Our instructor is the well-known Baiqing Li.

All age groups are invited to join us. For more information, please call Christa at 786-0143.

Donating To Pantry...



CANDY BOUCHER (left), Executive Director of the West Springfield Open Pantry, accepts a donation of \$300 from Rosemarie Kieffer of the Agawam Lioness Club.

Please be sure to patronize your local businesses this holiday season ... AAN!



ED SPELLACY AND LU PARCHICK-CAULEY of Agawam with Bill Foley, who was the speaker at the November 19th meeting of the Western Massachusetts Aviation Association at the Captain Leonard House.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Church News

Congratulations!!!



BEST WISHSSES TO Chris and Rev. Donald Morris, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rev. Morris was the long-time pastor of First Baptist Church in Agawam. *Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.*

Nocturnal Adoration Society To Meet This Friday Evening

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Saint John's Church in Agawam to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, December 4th from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

"Church News" is just one more reason why you turn our pages each and every week...

Opening Friday, December 4th

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"Melody Boys" To Perform At Catholic Women's Club Mtg.

The "Melody Boys," a singing group comprised of men over the age of 65, will entertain with a program of Christmas and yuletide music following the 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Agawam Catholic Women's Club on Monday, December 14th.

The group has been harmonizing for 45 years and is directed by Gil LaMothe. Their spirited program includes favorite seasonal selections, hymns, and Christmas songs.

"They are people who just love to sing," according to Terry Longo, chairwoman of the program, "and community singing will be part of the event."

The "Melody Boys" have sung at area hospitals and clubs, at the Springfield Symphony Hall, and on a cruise ship to St. Thomas Island.

It should be fun for all, as Mrs. Claus will be a special guest. Persons bringing a \$5 gift will also receive a Christmas surprise.

Peggy Lepper is hospitality chairwoman for the evening and will be assisted by Ann Jackobek, Jane Trevethan, Mary Gontzaruk, Marilyn Greene, Elaine Smith, Barbara Pfau, Nancy Douquette, Theresa Barlow, Sheryl Mardeusz, Janet Wysocki, and Angela Beaudry.

The Christmas meeting will be in the Social Center of St. John the Evangelist Church, Main Street, Agawam. The "Melody Boys" are sponsored by the Springfield Golden Agers.

Faith Bible Church To Begin Year-Long Series In January

Faith Bible Church, located at 370 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, will be hosting a 52-week series seminar entitled "The End Times." This will begin January 5, 1999.

Presented by Pastor James R. Jasmin, this series of Tuesday evening teachings will present current prophetic truths based on Scripture.

Discussions will include eschatology, significant current events that point to us on a Biblical timeline, and what the new millennium is going to bring according to Scripture.

These issues need to be recognized, understood, and prayed over. As a Christian family, we need to be equipped to respond to every opportunity crisis may bring!

All are not only welcome, but urged, to attend. Classes will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 9:00 p.m. Please call 786-1681 if nursery provisions would enable you to attend.

Parish News And Events From St. John's Church

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Agawam Catholic Adult Education Series for Advent continues this week with a video program dealing with next Sunday's Scriptures.

Two programs are on tap; one on Tuesday mornings at Sacred Heart after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, and on Thursday evenings here at St. John's from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We hope you will find the time to join us as a way to make "ready the way of the Lord."

OVER 60 CLUB

Christmas lunch and entertainment at the Delaney House will be on December 17th. The bus will leave St. John's at 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Any child wishing to participate in the Christmas Eve Pageant (the 6:00 p.m. Mass) is asked to come to a rehearsal on Saturday, December 13th and 20th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church.

Please call Sr. Fran Gloster at 786-8105 if you have any questions.

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES

The group meets on the second Thursday of every month.

December Schedule:

December 5th: Holiday Pops. Call Joanne, 789-2945.

December 10th: Pot Luck Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. (\$5 gift optional). Call Barbra, 786-2660, or Carol, 789-2843.

December 18th: Christmas Gathering at Ramada. Call Irene, 789-2018.

December 20th: Assist with Giving Tree project after 11:30 Mass.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree adorns the Sanctuary again this year after the marvelous experience of last year. As indicated in the recent flyer, take an ornament, buy the gift, wrap it, and leave the ornament on the outside with the code number visible, and return it by December 20th.

May this project help all of us become spiritually ready to celebrate the Birthday of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Parish Christmas Bazaar is this Saturday, December 5th. Doors opens at 9:00 a.m.

Last call for raffle tickets — bring to the Parish Office or to the Bazaar. Raffle tickets must be in by 1:30 p.m. on the 5th.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon ... AAN!!!

This message is brought to you by

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From
Our Daily
Bread

WHAT'S THE INCARNATION?

READ:
Hebrews 2:14-18

He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest.
—Hebrews 2:17

The incarnation. It's one of those big doctrinal terms that may puzzle us. What does it mean? Let's take a few moments to think about it.

Look at yourself in a mirror. What do you think it would feel like to be a different person? You will never know. You may modify your body by exercise and diet. You may change your mind and your behavior. You may even resort to surgery. But you and I will forever be the unique individuals God created us to be. Regardless of how much we may try, we can't actually experience what it is to be another person.

What was it like, then, for God to take on our human nature and live as a man who was despised and misunderstood on this fallen planet? (Isa. 53). He already knew exactly what sinful people go through. After all, He is all-knowing. Yet He voluntarily came to Bethlehem, entered into our suffering and sorrow, and personally experienced our trials and temptations (Heb. 4:15). He lovingly became one of us to pay the penalty for our sins and to conquer death (Heb. 2:14). Because He suffered, He is able to assist us now (v.18).

That's what the incarnation is all about. And if we thank Jesus for all eternity, it still won't be enough. —VCG
Touched with sympathy within;
He knows our feeble frame;
He knows what sore temptations mean,
For He hath felt the same. —Watts

THE SON OF GOD BECAME THE SON OF MAN
TO CHANGE SONS OF MEN INTO SONS OF GOD.

Church News - continued...



Reflections...
submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

God Became One Of Us...

Years ago, my mother used to tell me to leave my younger brother alone. "He's just a baby," she would say. One day, my brother snuck up behind me, and crashed a baseball bat into the back of my head. He turned to my mother and said, "It's okay, I's just a baby!" My mother replied, "You just grew up!"

Babies are cute and not responsible for their actions. Babies are safe and easy to love because for the most part, they are undemanding as long as you're not the baby's parent. Maybe that's why the baby Jesus in the manger does not offend too many people.

Indeed, Jesus was born a baby, thoroughly as human as you or me. He cried when He was hungry, or when He soiled His diaper. Jesus' experiences as a youth were not unlike most ordinary children, with the exception that He never sinned.

Jesus is God incarnate, which means God became one of us. Because Jesus is God incarnate, He was no ordinary child. Because Jesus is God incarnate, He was more than just a baby, whose birthday we celebrate at Christmastime.

Seven hundred years before the first Christmas, the prophet Isaiah described Jesus with the following words: **A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of His roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of the knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

In contrast to other religions' mythic figures, Jesus was a real person with a real heritage;

Jesus' earthly lineage is traced back to King David, whose father was named Jesse.

In contrast to other religions' mythic figures, Jesus offers us real benefits. From Jesus, we can receive true wisdom and understanding regarding the questions of life. From Jesus, we can receive guidance as well as the power we need to do God's will.

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness. Through Jesus Christ, we can come to know who God is and what He is like.

Jesus did not come to the world solely for Himself. Jesus was God incarnate for our sakes. Isaiah mentioned that **a branch shall grow out of His roots.**

Jesus said, **"I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing. I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."**

It was never God's purpose that people should wander through life not knowing Him. It was always God's plan that each and every one of us be connected to Him. It's hard to imagine anything being more connected to a vine than its own branches.

It is always a ghastly sight when we see branches which have been torn somehow from the vine or tree they belong to. The edges are ragged, perhaps twisted or distorted. That's how our lives are, if we are disconnected from the vine, Jesus Christ.

Because of the many benefits which God makes available to us through Jesus Christ, our joy can be complete. The Scripture tells us, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**

No one is excluded from the grace of God offered through Jesus. God calls to all people, in the words of John the Baptist, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**

To repent means to come to one's right mind. All we need is the good sense to accept the love and grace God has for us.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Advertiser
News!!!

"Weigh-Down" Program To Begin At St. David's

Don't be a slave to food any longer. God does not intend for food to control us, but sometimes we let this happen.

Join us at St. David's Episcopal Church for a free, no-obligation orientation about the "Weigh-Down" Program. You may have seen this program highlighted recently on ABC-TV.

Orientation will be held on Tuesday, December 15th, at 7:30 p.m. at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

This is a 12-week program for both men and women. For a registration fee, participants receive their own manuals and audiocassettes for home study.

Classes will begin January 13th at 9:00 a.m., and January 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Since materials must be ordered before the start of class, individuals must be registered two weeks before the first class.

For more information about this exciting program, please call Sharon at (860) 668-8701.

Annual Christmas Concert At Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills will present its Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

The Senior Choir will be singing the cantata "Noel, Jesus is Born."

The Junior Choir will also be featured. The combined choirs will be singing together from Vince Ambrosetti's collection of Christmas songs.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served in the Parish Center after the concert. All are welcome.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the needy of our community.

*Rev. Peter Monahan's column,
"Reflections...", is a regular
feature of the Advertiser News.*

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Church News - continued...**Weekly Calendar From
Ag. Congregational**

This Sunday, December 6th, is the Second Sunday in Advent. This is also Communion Sunday. The Worship Service begins at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "Dream On," taken from Text: Isaiah 11:1-10. His children's message will be "East & West, North & South," taken from Text: Matthew 3:1-2.

This Sunday will also be "Blanket Dedication Sunday." Money collected for the "Blanket Appeal" will be dedicated during the Offering Offertory.

A Memorial Service for Doris Melanson will be held this Sunday, December 6th, at 1:00 p.m.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is a canned meal (stew, hash, Spam, etc.).

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Advent Series, "The Jesse Tree," continues this Sunday, December 6th, at the First Baptist Church of Agawam from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., with Fellowship Time to follow.

The series is led by Rev. Curt Fuller and Rev. Rick Barnes and Christian Education/Youth Director, Dan Pender.

The next two sessions will be held at the Agawam Congregational Church on Sunday, December 13th and 20th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The Club 34 (3rd & 4th grade) and 56 (5th & 6th grade) are having a Bowling Trip from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call the church office at 786-7111.

It's time to order your poinsettias! The Flower Committee is now taking orders for poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary with the Poinsettia Tree on December 20th at the Christmas Sunday Worship Service.

You may take your poinsettias home following the Worship Service. Please call the church office at 786-7111 to place an order, or at the Coffee Hour.

Sizes and prices are listed on the order form.

The Christmas Eve Pageant Service (5:00 p.m.) rehearsals continue on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, December 12th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.; and Saturday, December 19th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Many people, young and old, are invited to participate. Call the church office at 786-7111 if you would like to participate.

The "Bright Nights" Mini Christmas Bus Trip has been scheduled for Friday, December 11th. The bus will leave promptly at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per seat.

There will be a Pot Luck Dessert to follow in Bryan Hall back at the church. Bring your favorite dessert to share.

For more information and to reserve your seat, call the church office at 786-7111.

The Christmas Eve Service Schedule is as follows: 5:00 p.m. (pageant), 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Services).

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**Chicken Supper At Valley Comm. Church
Offers Break From The Holiday Bustle**

Members of the Supper Committee at Valley Community Church are excited to hear regular customers encouraging their friends and acquaintances to attend these chicken suppers.

Hearty men are raving about the portions of food that are served, and the "senior" clientele are happy to be able to wrap their "leftovers" to bring home. With those words of encouragement ringing in their ears, the supper crew is anxious to "get into the kitchen."

This month's Chicken Supper will be held on Saturday, December 12th. The menu will consist of: half baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, two hot vegetables, tossed salad, cranberry

sauce, olives, pickles, rolls with butter, and a beverage. Then comes the difficult decision of choosing from a variety of mouth-watering, delectable desserts.

Continuous servings are available from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The cost is only \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Reservations are strongly suggested by calling Jeff at 789-2552 or Shirley at 786-2576. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Valley Community Church is located "high on a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

**For photo coverage in the ADVERTISER
NEWS, contact Jack Devine at 789-0053.**

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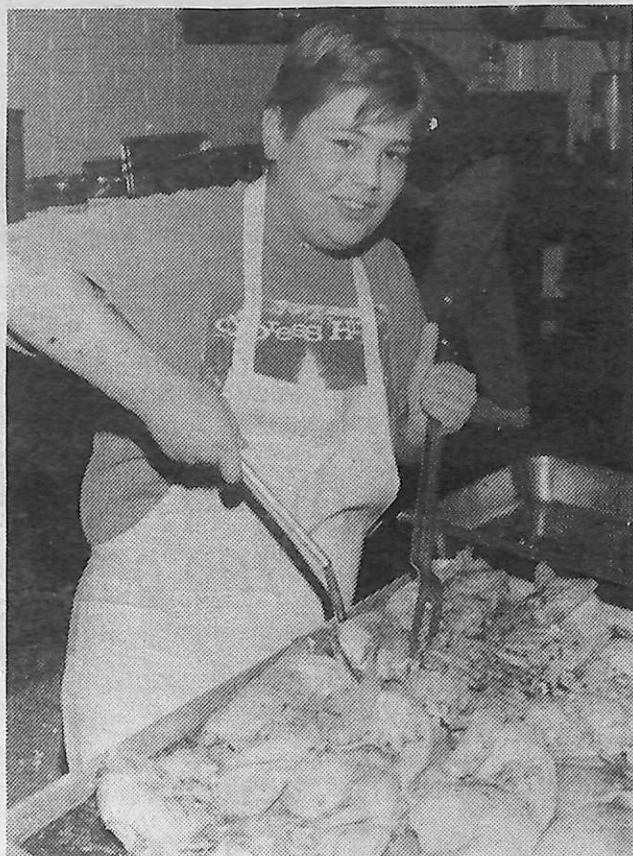
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Church News - continued...

Chicken Supper At Valley Community Church...



AT THE NOVEMBER 14TH chicken supper held at Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills: Tyler Pearsons (left photo); Tom and Eunice Pomeroy (center photo); and Kendall Hill (right photo). Advertiser

News photos by Jack Devine.

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include the Service of Holy Communion. The Lectionary readings for December 6th, the second Sunday of Advent, are Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, and Matthew 3:1-12.

The Muller family will light the second candle of Advent. Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Building a Civil Society." Children are welcome to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

This is the final week to order poinsettias from the Flower Committee. Please call Sharon at 786-8743 or the church office to place an order.

On Sunday, December 13th, Candy Boucher will join us for worship. She is the new Executive

Best local news with us, every and every week...

Director of the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry. After worship, members will gather for a letter-writing session dealing with Welfare Reform.

Operation Friendship will serve a Roast Beef Dinner here at the church on Saturday, December 5th from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. Call Sharon Rozanski at 786-8743 for reservations.

Join with us at the church on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 p.m. for pizza, hot chocolate, and Christmas caroling. Forget the hustle and bustle of shopping and come enjoy some Christmas camaraderie.

The Board of Christian Education will hold another movie night on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to make desserts for the

Open Pantry for Wednesday, December 9th. If you are able to make a dessert (brownies, sheet cake, cookies, etc.), please have your contribution to the church kitchen by 12:00 noon on Wednesday. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Griswold Hall.

On the calendar:

Friday, Dec. 4th: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club

Saturday, Dec. 5th: 5:00-6:30 p.m., Operation Friendship Roast Beef Supper

Sunday, Dec. 6th: 10:00 a.m., Communion Service. Poinsettia orders due.

Monday, Dec. 7th: 5:00-10:00 p.m., Griswold Hall in use; 7:30 p.m., Council.

Tuesday, Dec. 8th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th: 12:00 Noon, Desserts needed for Open Pantry; 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee.

Thursday, Dec. 10th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

diseases of the esophagus

Lecture

with Dr. Ferdauz N. Canteenwalla

Wednesday, December 16, 1998

6:00 p.m.

Conference Room A

Noble Hospital

This lecture is free of charge.

Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at

413-568-2328



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HAMPDEN COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician



850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

786-4820

Church News - continued...

Communion Anthem For Advent To Be Presented At First Baptist Church

Advent activities continue at First Baptist Church this Sunday morning at the 9:30 a.m. service as communion is celebrated.

The second advent candle will be lighted by William & Sandra Taft-Fairlie. Pastor Richard Barnes will speak on "They Don't Stay Little Long."

He will use scriptural text from Luke 2:21-40. The responsive reading will be led by Donna Modzelewski. Greeters are Stanley & Nancy Edwards and Edith Gottsche.

There will be a special dramatic presentation by the Youth Group. A communion anthem for the Advent season will be presented by the Choir. Visitors are always welcome at our services of worship.

On Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., the second in the Advent series "Prepare Ye the Way" will be held in Davis Hall of the Baptist Church.

This series is being sponsored jointly with the Agawam Congregational Church. The program is designed to be a celebration of the season of Advent by celebrating in a fun, faith-filled way. Facilitators are Rev. Curt Fuller, Rev. Richard Barnes, and Dan Pender.

A community-wide invitation is extended to at-

New England Brass Quartet To Perform At Good Shepherd

The New England Brass Quartet is returning to the Church of the Good Shepherd's Brigham Hall, 214 Elm Street, West Springfield, for a festive concert, "Holiday Fanfare," on Sunday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m.

We expect to welcome a full house for this delightful event as we did when they played to standing ovations in May of 1997. Be sure to get your reservations in as soon as possible!

For those who have not heard New England's premiere brass quartet before, you will not want to miss this event. Invite your friends and family to join us for a memorable start to the holiday season.

The quartet is excited about returning to Good Shepherd and has planned a program that will include ragtime, jazz, swing, and classical pieces, as well as traditional Christmas music and some new arrangements written just for this season.

We will again set up and decorate Brigham hall as a cabaret, and will be serving complimentary homemade desserts at intermission. With limited seating, this will be a sold-out event, so call today with your reservations.

Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors and students. For reservations and/or additional information, please call 734-1976.

tend a Holiday Open House on Friday, Dec. 11th. The fun-filled evening begins with a pot luck supper, sponsored by the members of the church at 6:00 p.m.

After the supper, everyone is invited to join in making holiday crafts. At 8:00 p.m., the children of the church will present a holiday skit. To top off the evening, Christmas carols and special holiday music will be presented in the sanctuary with special guest Richie Mitnik.

If you have not made reservations as yet, call the church office (786-7300) and plan to be a part of this special event of the Advent season.

Coming up this week:

Monday, Dec. 7th: 7:30 p.m., Sunshine Circle; 7:30 p.m., Amicitia Circle; 7:30 p.m., Sister-to-Sister.

Tuesday, Dec. 8th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters Circle; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., Church Committee.

Thursday, Dec. 10th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Friday, Dec. 11th: Holiday Open House. Starts at 6:00 p.m.

St. John's Christmas Bazaar Slated For Sat., December 5th

An assortment of light foods will be available to those who attend the annual Christmas Bazaar in the Social Center of St. John the Evangelist Church on Main Street, Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Hot dogs, four kinds of sandwiches, Mrs. Murphy's doughnuts, and an assortment of hot and cold beverages will be offered in a room off the main hall turned into a dining room for the occasion. The desserts will be homemade goodies baked by members.

The bazaar is a special project of the Catholic Women's Club with assistance from other parishioners. Mary Turner and Martha Jerry are co-chairpersons of the kitchen and dining room.

There will also be foods to "take home" at the baked food booth. Among the many features of the bazaar are Christmas wreaths and decorations, jewelry, toys, plants, candy, hand-knitted and hand-sewn articles, etc.

There will also be a number of raffles and the public is invited to participate.

Check our classifieds

Advent Activities Continue At Valley Community Church

The second week of the Advent season will be celebrated at Valley Community Church this Sunday, December 6th, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Greeting you as you enter the church this morning will be Francis McBride. Kendall Hill will serve as Acolyte. The Ushers for this Communion Sunday will be Don Manley and Charlie Reutt.

The Senior Choir will share a wonderful song called "An Advent Prayer" as well as an anthem during Communion called "Communion Song."

Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch's message, entitled "Angels Bending Near The Earth," is taken from Genesis 18:1-15 and Luke 1:39-56. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered by Rev. Loesch and assisted by Deacon, Richard Taylor.

The children in the church will be directed to Dunn Hall during the Greeting to attend "Children's Church." There they will participate in a Worship Service geared just for them.

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to Dunn Hall for Coffee and Fellowship as we honor all those in our church family that are celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries during the month of December.

Church School begins at 11:00 a.m., with classes available from Kindergarten through sixth grade. Nursery care is also available throughout the morning.

Both Junior and Senior Choirs will rehearse on Wednesday evening. The Junior Choir begins "making a joyful sound" at 6:15 p.m., and the Senior Choir at 7:00 p.m.

Any adult or child who would like to add their voices to these powerful choirs should speak to Sue Morgan, Choir Director.

Just a quick reminder that our next monthly Chicken Supper will be held on Saturday, December 12th. Please see a separate article within this paper for detailed information.

Valley Community Church is a member of the International Council of Community Church. Our Sanctuary is filled with people of various Christian backgrounds, but who all have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

We invite anyone who may be looking for a church home to come and worship with us. The church is located "high or a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Because of the large number of press releases, church notices, etc., that we receive during this time of the year, we cannot guarantee that these articles will appear more than once in our pages ...
ADVERTISER NEWS!!!



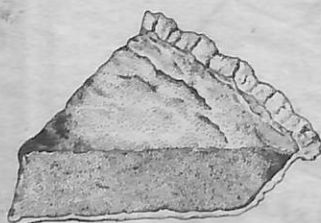
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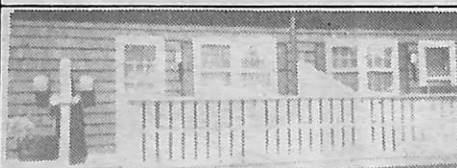
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Spotlight On Business



AGAWAM RESIDENT NANCY KLINKOWSKI enjoyed the great Christmas tree selection at Stepanik Farms. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Public Is Invited To Enjoy Stepanik Farms' Christmas Display

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

You might call it Agawam's answer to Springfield's Bright Nights. Or you could call it "Moonbeam Dream," "Glitter City," or Agawam's own "Bright Lights."

Richard Stepanik of Stepanik Farms on Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills, did all the work and has not titled the display. He just wants people to enjoy it. He believes he set up the extensive production the same year Springfield first introduced Bright Nights.

He has spent over 150 hours since starting the project in early November to arrange the whole affair. There are over 40,000 lights around the house and the adjacent land of Stepanik Farm. This is the fourth year Richard has arranged the lights, which shape reindeer, Santa, icicles, and dozens of other holiday images. Except for the large trees, he does the entire task alone.

If they were hooked together, the wires would run from Feeding Hills to Springfield. Richard had to actually change his electric service to provide enough power for so many lights, which come on and go off all at once. At 4:30 p.m., they turn on, and they automatically turn off at midnight. He figures they cost \$8 a day to run, which doesn't sound like a lot, but does add up. Over 100 cars can be seen outside Stepanik Farm every night with people enjoying the glittering spectacle.

Richard states, "It's one-of-a-kind. You just have to see it."

This is the first year the Stepaniks are selling

Christmas trees at the farm stand in addition to an excellent selection of wreaths, cemetery logs (some custom-made and decorated). The trees give shoppers a wonderful, freshly-cut selection. An exceptional feature offered by Stepanik is free delivery.

Nancy Klinkowski of Agawam praised the selection. "I never found a Christmas tree so fast! I saw four that I liked almost immediately!"

A Family Enterprise

The Stepanik Farm is a family enterprise, and Richard and his brother, William, share ownership with their parents. The small building used in summer for vegetables has been converted into a temporary "Christmas Shop," where Alice Stepanik, mother of Richard and William, has placed gorgeous poinsettia plants of many hues, surrounded by handmade ornaments, decorations, centerpieces, wreaths, knickknacks, angels, doilies, placemats, bows, and other eye-catching artistry.

Mrs. Stepanik handles this attractive and inviting shop and has help from Joan Stepanik Scanlon and several other assistants. Stepanik Farm holds magic and holiday charm for those travelers who love country roads and quaint, attractive decorations and gifts.

A visitor at dusk will gain the reward of viewing the lovely and intricate Christmas lights that are there thanks to Richard Stepanik and the entire family.

Third Quarter Sales Awards Announced By Molta Associates

Robert P. Molta, President of COLDWELL BANKER KEENAN & MOLTA ASSOCIATES, is proud to announce the 1998 third quarter sales awards for COLDWELL BANKER CORPORATION, Massachusetts.

Barbara Adornato of the Longmeadow office ranked second in the category of Buyer Controlled Sales and Cate Shea of the Longmeadow office ranked fifth in the same category.

Debra Taylor, Barbara Adornato, and Cate Shea of the Longmeadow office ranked fourth, seventh, and 10th, respectively in Closed Revenue Units.

Debra Taylor of Longmeadow ranked third in all of COLDWELL BANKER, Massachusetts in the category of Listings Sold. Gary Burnett of the Springfield office and Margaret Lis-Barone of Westfield and Southwick ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, in the category of Listings Sold.

COLDWELL BANKER KEENAN & MOLTA ASSOCIATES have sales offices in five convenient locations throughout the Greater Springfield area: Southwick, 569-0138; Longmeadow, 567-8931; Springfield, 783-2000; Westfield, 562-7311; Agawam, 789-9890. We are proud to serve all of your real estate needs.

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Our "Spotlight On Business" is just one more reason why you turn our pages each and every week ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

* * *



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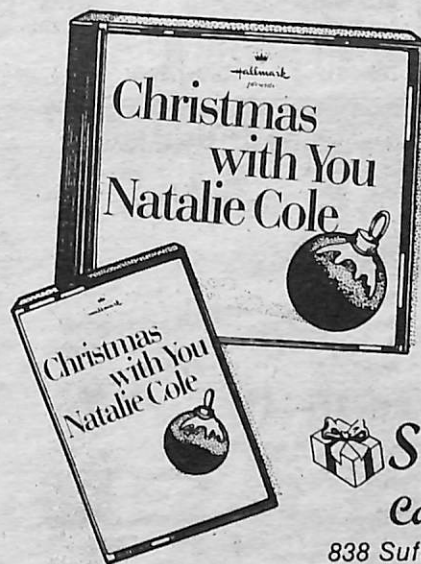
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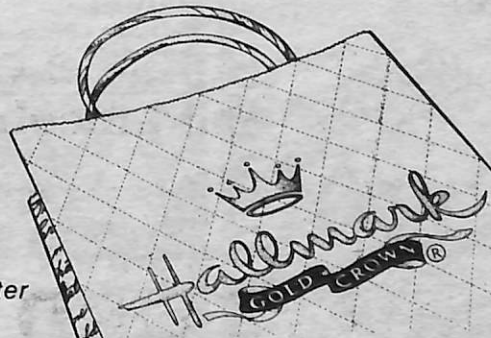
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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Lots Of Christmas Surprises At Surprise! Card & Gift Shop...



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE LATEST Christmas ornaments from Hallmark, then Surprise! Card & Gift Shop at 838 Suffield Street, Agawam (in the Southgate Shopping Center), is the place to look. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Maureen Nomakeo, owners Bob and Barb McElligott, Danielle Tetreault, and Marilyn Curry are ready to help you with your selections this holiday season. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Pam Savioli

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Savvy Furniture Arrangement...

When you move into a new home, you'll need to look at your furniture in a new light. A little planning can help you find the best arrangement of your furniture in your new home.

Think about how you can adapt your current color scheme to complement your new home. New throw pillows, wall-hangings, or window treatments may be all you need to pull a new look together.

Decide where you'll arrange furniture by creating your own floor plan. Using graph paper, draw each room to scale, with one inch equaling one foot of space. Draw in details like doors and windows.

Next, measure the size and shape of your major furniture pieces and draw to scale. Cut the shapes and arrange the pieces in different way until you discover a floor plan you like.

Consider using furniture in different rooms in your new house. A favorite living room chair may look great in the bedroom; a dining room cabinet may now fit in the den.

Make some rooms multi-purpose areas — a den may serve double-duty as a guest room with the addition of a sofa bed, while a desk in the dining room may turn the room into a home office.

For more decorating tips, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, December 10, 1998 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Hill for property located on Forest Ridge Lane.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: December 3, 1998

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Legal
Memo

by
Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Sobriety Test

Even though a motorist was not advised that he could refuse to submit to field sobriety tests, evidence of the tests could be admitted against him, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled.

A district court judge had denied the motorist's motion to suppress the field sobriety test results

and certified to the Appeals Court the question of whether such advice to the motorist was, indeed, necessary.

The Supreme Judicial Court answered "no," finding that the motion to suppress was properly denied.

"There is nothing in the request that the person perform these brief and simple tests that takes these cases, as a category, out of the general rule that advice as to a right to refuse is not necessary," the Court held. Further, the Court said that "disclosure of such right to refuse is not necessary for a valid consent."

This case is particularly significant because the majority of people who take the roadside field sobriety tests don't know they have a right to refuse them and that their refusal cannot be introduced into evidence against them.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

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A Natural Approach To Depression

The following information has been obtained from *Clinical Nutrition Insights* newsletter. Depression is a chronic and recurrent disorder that is associated with significant physical and social dysfunction.

It remains under-diagnosed and under-treated in all age groups. It is a common clinical problem seen in primary care, with 70 percent of prescriptions for antidepressants now written by primary care physicians.

Clinical depression, in its various forms, affects up to 14 million people in the U.S. in any given year. Surveys suggest that women are more likely than men to develop major depression, most likely due to biological and psychological factors.

Depression can vary from periodic bouts of "the blues" to persistent thoughts of suicide. Common symptoms of mild to moderate depression include feelings of sadness and dejection, sleep disturbances, decreased energy, poor concentration, and significant weight loss or gain.

Depression is an illness considered to be mediated by brain neurotransmitters. Conventional treatment for depression include psychotherapy, medication, or a combination of the two. People suffering from mild to moderate depression may benefit from nutritional and herbal supplementation.

Nutritional and herbal support for depression includes:

- * folic acid (folate) and vitamin B12; essential for metabolic pathways in the central nervous system. Folate may improve mental function.

- * Inositol; this is a simple sugar-like compound present in the normal diet that acts as a messenger within the cells. In Europe, this has been used for anxiety and depression.

- * St. John's Wort; helpful for use as an antidepressant, antiviral agent, wound healing, diuretic, depression, neurologic disorders, anti-inflammatory, and as a sedative.

- * There are numerous plants in addition to St. John's Wort that have been identified in ancient herbal texts from around the world to "settle the spirit," "lift the mood," and "clear the mind." These include salvia root, rosemary herb, lavender, California poppy, licorice root, and jujube seed. Also, increasing exercise and decreasing caffeine helps.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

Fitness Tips...

Shoulder Injuries Take Too Long To Heal

by Carmela A. Kirk, RN
Ass't. Fitness Director, Fitness First

We've talked about the importance of safety before. Remembering helmets, knee and shoulder pads, and other protective gear is crucial. It is just as important to be careful of form and technique to prevent injury.

An over-extended joint or not being mindful during your workout can be disastrous. If you've ever had an injury, you know how frustrating the slow recovery time is, and starting all over when you are healed needs to be slow and cautious.

This all can be especially true with the shoulder joint. I know people who have injured their shoulder with push-ups (yours truly, for one), tricep presses, chest presses, shoulder presses, lateral raises, and just about every other upper body exercise. My point is, the shoulder is an easy joint to injure. You must use it with caution.

The shoulder muscle, or deltoid, is a relatively smaller muscle. It is a triangular muscle that attaches the humerus, long upper arm bone, to the scapula and clavicle, the shoulder blade and top front chest bone. This muscle flexes, extends, and lifts the arm. There is also what is called the rotator cuff, which is a group of four muscles that attaches the humerus to the scapula and forms a cuff or cap over the top of the humerus. You've probably heard of rotator cuff injuries. This involves any of those four muscles or their tendons and can be very painful.

Your body heals naturally. It's not the pain killers or the muscle relaxers or the any other pills we take that heal us, it is our body that heals us. What an injury needs is rest, warmth, nutrition, and basic TLC. When you injure your shoulder, or if you ever have, you realize how much we use that joint in our everyday use. Resting this major joint can set back even the most dedicated, knowledgeable athlete. Knowing this, it is definitely in your best interest not to get injured in the first place.

Prevent injuries by lifting with the proper weight. Don't go too heavy, no matter how much your ego screams. Work out smart. Do not over-extend the joint. When chest-pressing the elbow, do not dip down too far. That over-extends the shoulder. All the exercises mentioned earlier need to be executed with proper form, speed, and weight in order to be safe and effective.

Ask a trainer or obtain the information from a trustworthy source. If you've ever injured that shoulder, you know no matter how long you needed to rest it, it was too long!

* * *

"For Your Health" is a weekly feature of the ADVERTISER NEWS...

* * *

Support Groups, Courses, And Programs At Noble

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, December 9th and 23rd, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their support persons.

On December 9th, the topic of discussion will be "Healthy Meal Choices for CVA Patient During the Holiday Season," and it will be facilitated by Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.

On December 23rd, a holiday celebration for Stroke Support Group members will be held at this meeting, which will also be facilitated by Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.

Diabetes: Tuesday, December 22nd, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals suffering from diabetes and their support persons.

A holiday celebration for Diabetes Support Group members will be held at this meeting, which will be facilitated by Gail O'Hara, R.N., C.D.E., Certified Diabetes Instructor.

Better Breathers: Wednesday, December 9th, 2:00 p.m. In Noble Hospital's Third Floor Cardiopulmonary Classroom.

Free of charge and open to individuals with respiratory or pulmonary difficulties.

At this meeting, Richard Bessette, C.R.T., will provide information about "Holiday Eating for the Pulmonary Patient."

COURSES/CLINICS/PROGRAMS:

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: Thursday, December 17th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's Sports & Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

During this clinic (which is held on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month), athletic injuries are evaluated by a certified athletic trainer and, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, December 9th and 16th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant certification. Cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413) 572-5172.

Diseases of the Esophagus: Wednesday, December 16th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

This lecture with Dr. Ferdauz N. Canteenwalla is free of charge. However, seating is limited and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Richard W. Gallerani, OD
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For Your Health - continued...

Tips On Keeping The Holiday Season Safe From Baystate Medical

Whatever way you celebrate the holidays, remember to take certain safety precautions to help keep the holidays safe, warns the Western Massachusetts SAFE KIDS Coalition headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

"Parents and caregivers are often very busy preparing for festivities and may forget to think about potential hazards in the home," said Shirley LaRoche, R.N., coordinator, Western Massachusetts SAFE KIDS Coalition.

The local chapter of SAFE KIDS recommends the following safety tips to keep your holiday season safe:

Lights and Candles

- **Decorate your tree using only UL (Underwriters' Lab, Inc.) approved lights and cords.** Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords. Use no more than three strings of lights on one extension cord, and never run an electrical cord under a carpet. Be sure to secure electrical cords so that children cannot pull them and topple the tree.

- Turn off the tree lights when you go to bed or leave the home.

- Keep burning candles out of children's reach; keep matches and lighters out of sight and locked away. Do not leave a burning candle unattended, and remember to put it out before leaving the house or going to bed.

- Do not place candles near draperies or anything that might easily catch fire.

- **Install smoke alarms in your home and test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.** Home fires and home fire-related deaths are more likely to occur during the cold-weather months.

Christmas Trees

- **Look for a fresh tree if you choose to buy a natural tree.** Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire than older trees. (A safer option is to buy a fire-resistant, artificial tree.)

- Keep your tree in a container full of water and check it daily.

- Use a wide-based stand to make sure the tree is secure and will not fall over.

- Cover the tree basin with a tree skirt or blanket.

- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators, and heating vents.

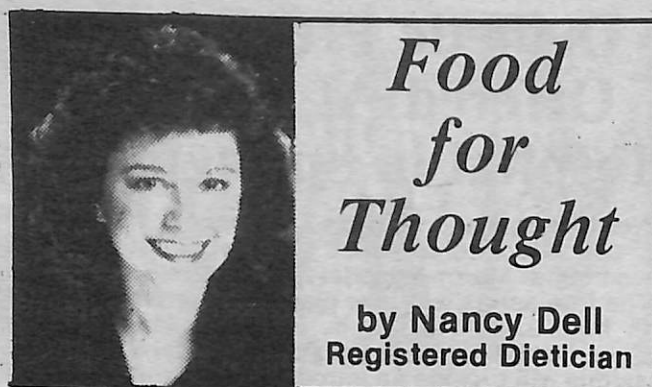
- Trim the lower branches to avoid eye injuries to small children.

- **Decorate your tree with children in mind.** Do not put breakable ornaments, ornaments with small, detachable parts, ornaments with metal hooks, or ornaments that look like food or candy on the lower branches where small children can reach them. Also, make sure tree lights are hung out of reach of young children.

- Never burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood, or wrapping paper in your fireplace.

- Dispose of your tree promptly after the holidays.

SEE HOLIDAY TIPS - Page 30...



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Healthy Holiday Shopping Success...

I have holiday shopping phobia. I'm always in search of the perfect gifts that will light up the faces of my friends and family members.

I ask myself, "Is this a gift that they wouldn't ordinarily buy for themselves? Do they already have three they don't even use? What color and will it match? Will it last and have meaning?"

Being in the health field, I like to give gifts that help people live well. I imagine if you're reading this article, you're health-conscious, too. Continue reading to discover some gift ideas that can combine your interest in health with the interests of others.

Bountiful Books: Hundreds of health-oriented books that help to improve the mind, body, or spirit line bookstore shelves. The *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series shares simple stories and sayings that can lighten the spirit, build self-esteem, or give encouragement. Books about angels or spiritual leaders may be uplifting for some adults.

Children can learn about food and health with books like the Berenstain Bears' *Too Much Junk Food* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Know someone with a New Year's resolution to get healthier? Wrap up a copy of Andrew Weil's goal-oriented book, *8 Weeks to Optimal Health*.

For the Cook: Write out your favorite heart-healthy recipes, stash some of the ingredients in a basket lined with a colorful dish towel, and toss in a garlic peeler (That new gadget that peels fresh garlic in a flash, costs \$8, and looks like a tube of rubber — they're great!) Voila ... you've got a gift from the heart for the heart.

Better yet, double your gift-giving power by buying them the delightfully new cookbook called *Food & Good Health for All*. This cookbook is special. It's filled with 70 favorite recipes from Western Massachusetts dietitians, it costs just \$10, and all the profits go to help feed the hungry right here in Western Massachusetts. To order a cookbook, call Sandy at 567-2290 or stop by my office at 850 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills.

For the Tea or Coffee Lover: Coffee suffered a bad reputation for years. However, recent research shows that the coffee bean packs a powerful punch of antioxidants — components of food that protect us from age-related diseases like cancer and heart disease.

That's no ticket to drink all you want, but it does open the door for a new, healthy gift idea. Stuff a basket with a sampling of flavorful coffees (choose decafs for best health) and a charming set of mugs.

Tea leaves are also loaded with antioxidants. A variety of teas stuffed into a tea cup or teapot will bring a smile to many faces.

An Anti-Stress Package: How about a gift certificate for a massage, some chamomile tea, an eye pillow, and a bottle of some calming herbs like ginseng, passion flower, and lemon balm.

If you buy herbal supplements, be sure they are in a gel cap or liquid form. Hard-compressed pills may not dissolve unless you see on the label "USP approved."

For Food Lovers: This category will cover just about anyone. Grab a festive holiday gift bag and fill it with healthy and unique food product. You'll find some in the natural food aisle at your local grocery store or at a health food store.

Some good stuffers include McCann's old-fashioned oatmeal, Lundberg assorted whole grain rice mixes, energy bars, vegetable chips, whole grain muffin and pancake mixes, two-percent milk cheeses, Fantastic Foods Vegetarian Chili Mix, and a variety of dried fruits.

Once your friends and family taste the healthier versions of some conventional foods, they'll be surprised how good "health food" can taste. These gifts will be remembered long after the holidays are past.

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

Mercy Hospital Has Regular Support Group For Children Of People With Cancer

Learning that your parent has cancer is difficult for children of all ages. But discovering you're not alone and sharing your feelings and concerns with others in the same situation can help.

Children of area cancer patients have that opportunity, through a support group which meets monthly at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. The group's next meeting will take place on Monday,

December 7th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center.

Meetings are led by skilled facilitators from Mercy Hospital's Pastoral Care Department and are free of charge. Persons of all ages are welcome.

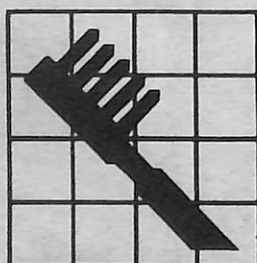
For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department at (413) 748-9453.

All the hometown news with us — AAN!!!

We have moved our office to Feeding Hills Center. Our new office opened on Dec. 1st and we welcome our current patients and new patients at the new location.

AGAWAM DENTAL CARE

James Maslowski DMD / Ronald Pahl Jr. DMD



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(413) 786-7313**

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Rts. 10 & 202
Southwick, MA
(413) 569-2121**

For Your Health - continued...**HOLIDAY TIPS - from Page 29...****Holiday Foods and Ornaments**

Some foods and objects pose a choking hazard to young children, especially children under age five. To help prevent unintentional choking during the holidays:

- Keep round, hard foods and candies such as candy cane pieces, nuts, and popcorn out of reach of children under age five.

- Keep small ornaments, tinsel, small figurines, and other decorations away from children's reach. Young children have a tendency to put everything in their mouths.

Poisons

While preparing your home for the holidays, be aware of poisons that can come from seemingly innocent and unexpected forms.

- **Open the flue in your fireplace when burning a fire to provide adequate ventilation.** The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases dramatically in the winter. Proper ventilation reduces the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Have all fuel-burning appliances checked annually before use in cold-weather months. Install UL-approved carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

- **Keep alcoholic drinks and containers out of reach.** Holiday beverages such as eggnog that contain alcohol may be sweet and inviting to young children. Do not leave alcohol drinks unattended since they might be harmful to children if swallowed.

- **Keep common baking ingredients such as vanilla and almond extract out of reach.** They contain high levels of alcohol and may be harmful to young children if swallowed.

- **Beware of fire salts used in fireplaces to produce colored flames.** They contain heavy metals and cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten.

- **Keep poisonous plants out of reach.** Watch for holly and mistletoe berries that fall on the ground because they are very poisonous plants if eaten. Other poisonous holiday plants include: amaryllis, azalea, boxwood, Christmas rose, Crown of Thorns, English ivy, and Jerusalem cherry. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous, but they can cause skin irritation and gastrointestinal distress.

- **Avoid using artificial snow sprays to decorate.** These sprays can cause lung irritation if inhaled.

- **List poison control center and emergency medical service phone numbers by all telephones.** In addition, leave a phone number for babysitters so they can reach you if you go out to a holiday party.

- **Keep ipecac syrup in the home to induce vomiting. Use only on the advice of a poison control center or a physician.**

For more information on child safety, call LaRoche in the SAFE KIDS office at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital at 794-5434.

Local Meetings Dealing With Mental Illness Issues

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts, Inc. has announced the following groups which are free and open to the public.

For Those With Depression and Manic Depression-Westfield: 20 Broad, Street, Westfield. Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 p.m.

For Adult Siblings and Adult Children of those with Mental Illness: AMI-WM Office, 717½ Main Street, Agawam. Meets second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

For Adults with a Mentally Ill Relative-Agawam: Agawam Council on Aging, 68 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam. Meets last Monday of the month, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Noble Hospital In Westfield Is Seeking Volunteers

The Volunteer Services Department at Noble Hospital is looking for individuals interested in volunteering at the hospital. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available, including the Coffee Shop Clerk, Gift Shop Clerk, Admitting Host/Hostess, etc.

Volunteering is a great way to stay active while meeting new people and helping your community. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Melinda Partridge in the Volunteer Services Department at (413) 572-5030.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Diabetic Programs Offered At Mercy Hospital In Springfield

Newly diagnosed diabetics will benefit from a four-part educational series being conducted in December at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

The free series will take place December 14th-17th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center at the hospital, 299 Carew Street. Sessions will provide an introduction to diabetes, dietary guidelines, a review of diabetes medications, and an overview of complications related to the condition.

Registration is required; call Mercy Hospital's Patient Education Department, (413) 748-9024, and leave your name and telephone number.

Support Groups Offered At The Agawam Senior Ctr.

The **Caregivers Support Group** continues at the Agawam Senior Center on the **third Monday** of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you are caring for your spouse, an elderly parent, or relative, come and share with us or receive some support.

For more information, please call Gail Freeman at 789-7199.

The **Mental Illness Support Group** continues at the Agawam Senior Center on the **last Monday** of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Gail Freeman at 789-7199.

Course To Certify Nursing Assts. & Home Health Aides

The Westfield Vocational Technical High School Adult Allied Health Programs is currently accepting applicants for the January class for individuals who wish to become certified nursing assistants and home health aides.

Classes will be held in the mornings from Monday through Friday for 15 weeks. Interested individuals must be 22 years of age, income-eligible, and must be able to perform the physical responsibilities of the position.

The class is funded through the Hampden County Employment and Training Consortium and the Regional Employment Board.

Anyone interested should contact Sheila Harrington at 572-6454 for additional information about the program.

Free Hearing Screening Slated For Dec. 14th At The Senior Center

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct a free hearing screening and hearing aid checks on Monday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally-certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call 786-0400, ext. 242.

Ready Or Not Y2K Is On The Way!

As a business person you may have already addressed what measures you need to take to enter the Millennium. How about your suppliers? How will Y2K affect your dealings with them? What happens to vendor or other third party contracts?

Find the solutions you need before they become problems. Come to Westfield Bank's Y2K Business Seminar featuring Business Consultant Timm Tobin. Bring your questions and we will do our best to provide answers. We'll even include a Continental Breakfast, so please join us for another move forward to the year 2,000.

Y2K Business Seminar
Tuesday, December 8, 1998
8:00 AM

Westfield Bank
141 Elm Street, Westfield

Please call Alice Babcock
at 413-572-6150 for reservations.
Seating Limited.

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Boneless Sirloin Steaks \$2.49 Lb.

Boneless Spoon Roast \$2.19 Lb.

*** PORK SALE ***

Center Cut Chops \$1.89 Lb.

Center Cut Bone-In Roast \$1.69 Lb.

Loin End Roast \$1.29 Lb.

Rib End Roast \$1.09 Lb.

Boneless Roast (Cut From Rib Or Loin End) \$1.99 Lb.

Fresh Ground Pork \$1.49 Lb.

Country Style Ribs \$1.39 Lb.

Whole Pork Loins (Cut & Freezer Wrapped For Free) \$1.19 Lb.

Boneless Top Round London Broil \$1.99 Lb.

Whole Butt Tenderloins \$5.69 Lb.

Whole Boneless Top Sirloins \$1.59 Lb.

SEAFOOD

Scrod Fillet \$4.49 Lb.

Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can) \$9.99

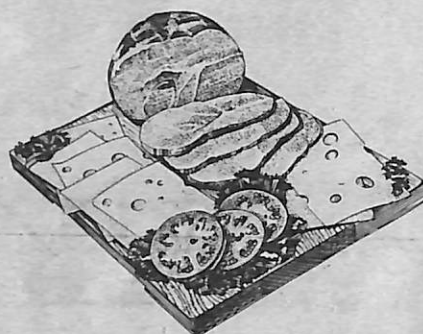
Tuesday & Wednesday SPECIALS

Fresh Ground Beef

(7 Lb. Bag)

\$7.99

DELI



Land O' Lakes White American Cheese \$2.99 Lb.

Russer German Bologna \$1.39 Lb.

Russer Virginia Baked Ham \$2.99 Lb.

Willow Brook Turkey Pastrami \$1.99 Lb.

Deutsmacher Polish Loaf \$2.39 Lb.

Hormel Genoa Salami \$2.99 Lb.

Willow Brook Deluxe Turkey Breast \$2.39 Lb.

Cooper Sharp Cheese \$3.49 Lb.

Fresh Seafood Salad \$3.99 Lb.

FROZEN & DAIRY

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon) \$1.97

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (½ Gallon) \$1.19

Hood Skim Milk (½ Gallon) \$1.19

Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon) 2 For \$7.00

PRODUCE

Bananas 39¢ Lb.

California Navel Oranges (Large Size) 4 For 99¢

Florida Pink Grapefruit 3 For 89¢

Iceberg Lettuce (Head) 69¢

Mini Carrots (1 Lb. Pkg.) 99¢

Green & Yellow Squash 89¢ Lb.

Native Potatoes (10 Lb. Bag) \$1.19

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Prices Effective

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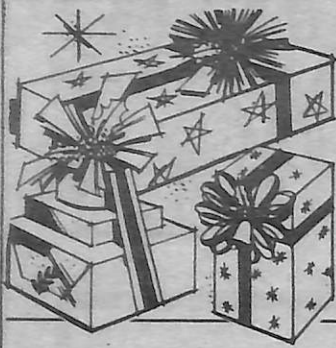
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Sundays
8-5

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DECEMBER WINE SALE

Almaden Bag Box / Various Retails (5 Ltr.)

Upper Tier - \$10.99 <i>Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Chardonnay</i>	Mid Tier - \$9.99 <i>Burgundy White Zinfandel</i>	Low Tier - \$7.49 <i>Golden Chablis Blush Mt. Rhine Alfresco Red White Grenache Chablis</i>
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Riunite (1.5 Ltr.)
All Flavors **\$6.49**
Glen Ellen Varietal (1.5 Ltr.)
Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot **\$8.99**
White Zinfandel **\$6.99**
Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay
 (750 ml.) **\$9.99**
Michel Picard French Merlot
 (750 ml.) **\$6.49**
The Hogue Johannesburg
Riesling **\$4.99**
Fetzer Sundial Chardonnay
 (750 ml.) **\$6.99**
Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon
 (750 ml.) **\$6.99**
Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante
 (750 ml.) **\$7.99**
Korbel Champagne (750 ml.)
Extra Dry And Brut **\$9.49**
Moet Et Chandon White Star Champagne
 (750 ml.) **\$21.99**
Andre Champagne (750 ml.)
All Flavors - Cold Duck, Brut, Extra Dry, Pink **\$2.99**

LIQUOR SPECIALS

Seagrams 7 (1.75 Ltr.) - \$10.99
(After \$3.00 Rebate)
Jack Daniels (1.75 Ltr.) - \$24.99
Southern Comfort (1.75 Ltr.) - \$13.99
(After \$3.00 Rebate)
Seagrams Gin (1.75 Ltr.) - \$9.99
(After \$3.00 Rebate)
Absolut Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$21.99
Popov Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$11.49

Phipps Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$9.49
J & B Scotch (1.75 Ltr.) - \$28.99
Chivas Regal (750 ml.) - \$21.99
Glenlivet Single Malt Scotch
 (750 ml.) - **\$22.99**
Crown Royal Gift Set (750 ml.) - \$15.99
Peachtree Schnapps (1.75 Ltr.) - \$13.99
Bailey's Irish Cream (750 ml.) - \$14.99
DiSaronno Amaretto (750 ml.) - \$15.99
Grand Marnier (750 ml.) - \$26.99
Myers Dark Rum (750 ml.) - \$11.99
Kahlua (Ltrs.) - \$18.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P. (750 ml.) - \$30.99
Courvoisier Cognac (750 ml.) - \$20.99
Sambuca (750 ml.) - \$14.99
Frangelica (750 ml.) - \$14.99


BEER SPECIALS

Imports

Bass Ale
 (England)
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$10.99
Heineken
 (Holland)
 24 Loose Bottles
\$18.99
Amstel Light
 (Holland)
 24 Loose Bottles
\$18.99
Becks
 (Germany)
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$9.99
Corona
 (Mexico)
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$8.99
Guinness
Pub Draught
 (Ireland)
 4 Pk.
\$4.99

Domestic

Sam Adams
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$9.99
Bud Bottles
 20 Pk. Bottles
\$12.99
Bud Light
 20 Pk. Bottles
\$12.99
Coors
 30 Pk. Cans
\$16.49

Coors Light
 30 Pk. Cans
\$16.49
Busch
 24 12 Oz. Bottles
\$9.99
Busch Light
 24 12 Oz. Bottles
\$9.99
Ice House
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$6.99
Red Dog
 12 Pk. Bottles
\$6.99
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12-5

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568-8343
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568-4377
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Join Us For The All New "KnockOut-WorkOut"

**It's Our Exciting New Aerobic
Kick Boxing Class
At Fitness First!**



Fitness First has once again added another new energetic group exercise class that has increased in popularity Nation wide.

Our new kick boxing class is called "KnockOut WorkOut"! A recent survey of our members say they absolutely love it!

It's a combination of boxing skills along with the kicks and discipline of Martial Arts.

Learn basic punches, blocks, and kicks that makes this a terrific aerobic workout!

It's both challenging and fun, but a class both men and women can do!

Holiday Special! 4 weeks for ONLY \$49!

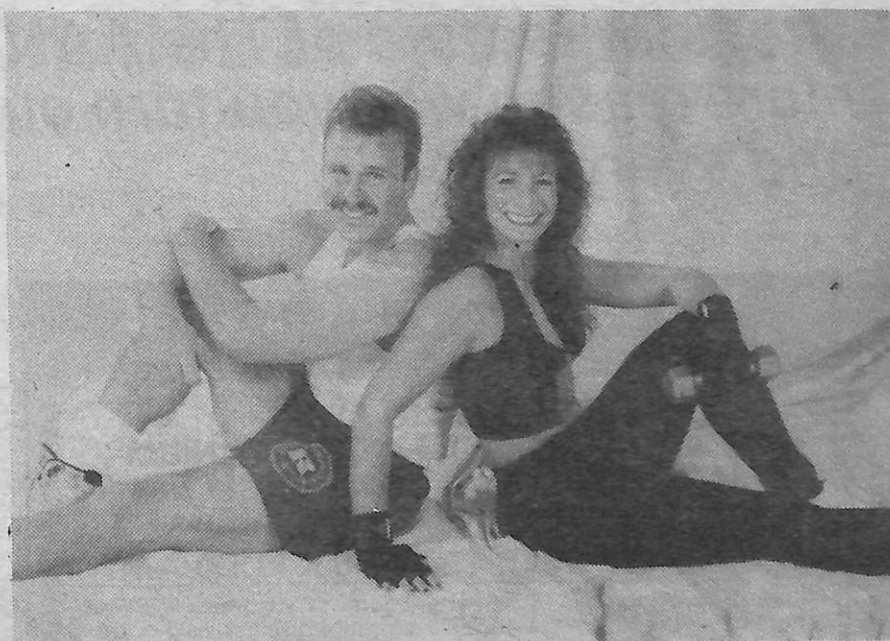


Give a gift certificate to a friend or join yourself!

Plenty of Gift Certificates are available for gift giving!

Offer ends December 31, 1998.

Start getting into shape NOW for the holidays and for the New Year ahead by working out at the area's one and only health club - Fitness First!



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(413) 786-1460

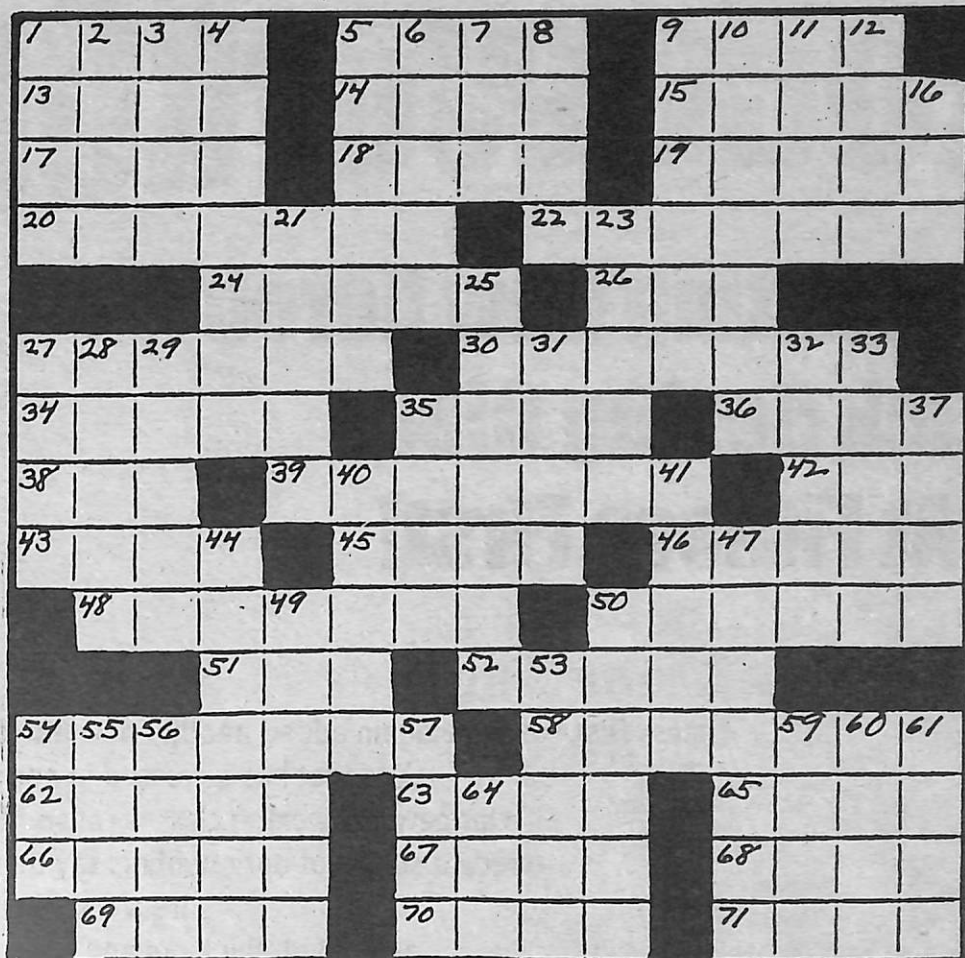


Arts

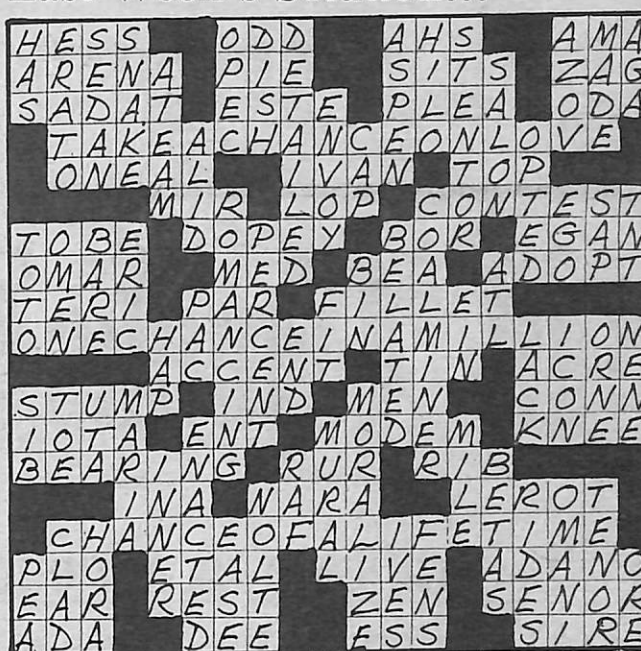
Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...

ACROSS

- 1 Rock group must
 - 5 Win easily (colloq.)
 - 9 Wall beam
 - 13 "From — to nuts"
 - 14 Malignant
 - 15 Western mountain range
 - 17 Porch
 - 18 Lop away
 - 19 Iowa commune
 - 20 Bledsoe for one
 - 22 Miami footballer
 - 24 Realtor's sign
 - 26 Allow
 - 27 Hasty writing
 - 30 Reparation
 - 34 Action spot
 - 35 "Take —" (rest)
 - 36 Borge for one
 - 38 Plunger
 - 39 Gussies up
 - 42 Teachers' org.
 - 43 Mid-East prince
 - 45 Elvis' middle name
 - 46 Standard strength (chem.)
 - 48 "— a dime"
 - 50 Diners
 - 51 Table scrap
 - 52 Bilko's rank for short
 - 54 State beforehand
 - 58 Stalin's title
 - 62 Pooped out
 - 63 Dr. Zhivago's love
 - 65 Early Peruvian
 - 66 Blazing
 - 67 Popular street name
 - 68 "— suit" (40's glad rags)
 - 69 Ms. Trueheart
 - 70 Seasoner
 - 71 First name in mystery
- ### DOWN
- 1 Urgent shipper's instructions
 - 2 DaVinci's Lisa
 - 3 "Drive for show, — for dough"
 - 4 Trojan foe
 - 5 Question again
 - 6 Egg-shaped
 - 7 Russian collective
 - 8 Begged
 - 9 More trite
 - 10 Enticed
 - 11 Bee hive state
 - 12 Ceylonese fishing boat
 - 16 Febray to friends
 - 21 Man from Ames
 - 23 "— times" (yore)
 - 25 Sea god attendants
 - 27 Poetess teasdale
 - 28 Packs it in
 - 29 Make payment



Last Week's Solution...



ALEXANDRA JEFFWAY

Alexandra Jeffway In Pioneer Valley Ballet's "Nutcracker"

Alexandra Regina Jeffway, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jeffway, Jr., of Leeds, will appear in the Pioneer Valley Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" at The Academy of Music, Northampton, on Friday, December 11th.

Alexandra is the granddaughter of Gloria DiPietro of Agawam and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jeffway of Northampton. She is the great-granddaughter of Irene DePaola and the late Regina Savioli.

The Theater Project To Present Program On "Tin Pan Alley"

The Theater Project will present "Tin Pan Alley: A Concert of Songs and Stories," on Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, December 18th at 8:00 p.m., according to Producing Director Danny Eaton. Performers Lorrie and Ben Scranton will be accompanied by pianist Steve Hayes.

The Scrantons, who have appeared in over 60 musical and dramatic productions, will perform several standards in American popular music. Among the ballads, bluesy torch songs, uptempo numbers the couple usually perform include "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Shine on Harvest Moon," "Ten Cents a Dance," "Sweet Sixteen," and "Some of These Days."

Dedicated to the research, preservation, and performance of American popular music, the Scrantons were recently awarded a fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to continue their efforts. For several years in New York City, Lorrie performed her cabaret act, "Red Hot and Singing the Blues," throughout the Manhattan supper club circuit, and Ben was a member of the Village Light Opera Group.

Tickets for "Tin Pan Alley: A Concert of Songs and Stories" are available by calling the box office at the Majestic Theater at (413) 747-7797. The box office is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Dick Mastroianni's "Meet The Master" is a regular feature of The AAN and just one more reason why you turn our pages each and every week...

* * * * *

PUBLIC AUCTION

Mortgagee's Sale of Real Estate on Premises

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2 BDRM TOWNHOUSE CONDOMINIUM
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TUESDAY, DEC. 15, 1998 - 11:00 AM

1,406+/-SF living area, multi-level, 5 rooms, 1.5 baths, FIREPLACE, basement, FHA/gas. TERMS: \$5,000 deposit cash, certified or bank check at sale. Balance due 30 days. Brokers register 48 hours prior.

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ASHLEY TAYLOR WILLIAMS

Ashley T. Williams To Appear In Third "Nutcracker" Show

Ashley Taylor Williams, eight year-old daughter of Warren and Cindy Williams of Meadowbrook Road, Agawam, will be making her third appearance with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, in this season's production of "The Nutcracker" at Symphony Hall.

Ashley, a third-grader at Benjamin Phelps School, has been dancing since she was two years-old. She holds numerous awards and titles for her dancing abilities, including "Little Miss Agawam Talent," "Little Miss Dancetime USA," and "Little Miss Connecticut Valley Model and Talent."

She studies with Loree Cloud at the New England Dance & Gymnastics Center in Westfield, where she is a soloist and is on the competitive senior gym team, as well as in the competitive Mini dance company.

Ashley competed with her groups at the Nationals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina this past summer and returned home with two group National championships.

Her future ambition is to be a Rockette or a Disney dancer. She is well on her way!

**Happy
18th Birthday
"Shooter"**



*Love,
Your Family*

Dance Program By "Maple Run" At The Middle School

"Maple Run" will present a program of dance at the Agawam Middle School on Friday, December 4th, at 7:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council.

Members of the group are from the Springfield area. Josephine Sarnelli is the music director and choreographer.

The dance group has been in existence since 1984 and has performed at various events in the area. The program on December 4th will trace the history of the various ethnic dances being presented.

The group will be in costume showcasing Appalachian Clogging, Folk dance, Cajun dance, and Celtic dance (with an excerpt from Riverdance).

The program is free to the public. The Agawam Middle School is located at 68 Main Street, Agawam.

For further information, please call 786-1859.

An Evening Of Christmas Magic At Red Door Theatre

"TWAS THE NIGHT" will be presented by the Hilltop Players on December 11th and 12th at 7:30 p.m. and December 13th at 2:00 p.m. at THE RED DOOR THEATRE, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. It is an evening of Christmas magic with songs, dances, and comedy sure to delight the entire family.

Performers will delight all members of the family with their spirited musical renditions of familiar Christmas carols. The Dancing Reindeer will appear for the third year in a row, and there will be many humorous surprises to complete the evening.

Take a moment from the frenzy of the holidays and join the Hilltop Players for "TWAS THE NIGHT." Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and children 12 and under.

Seating is limited. For reservations, call 789-2026.



CLARA BERTAGNOLLI, DEANNA RONCA, and LUCIA SANTANIELLO.

Locals In Albany Berkshire Ballet's "The Nutcracker"

Three local dancers — Clara Bertagnolli, DeAnna Ronca, and Lucia Santaniello — are very excited about their upcoming performance in the Albany Berkshire Ballet's "The Nutcracker" on Friday, December 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

All three girls are currently in their sixth year of dance lessons at the Academy of Artistic Performance, where they are members of the Dance Workshop and study ballet, tap, jazz, acro, and baton.

DeAnna and Lucia are both eight years-old and in third grade (DeAnna at Granger School, and Lucia at Phelps School). Clara just turned eight and is in second grade at Robinson Park School.

Please come and enjoy this special holiday performance.

Agawam Little League Baseball

Sign-Ups

Saturday, December 5th

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

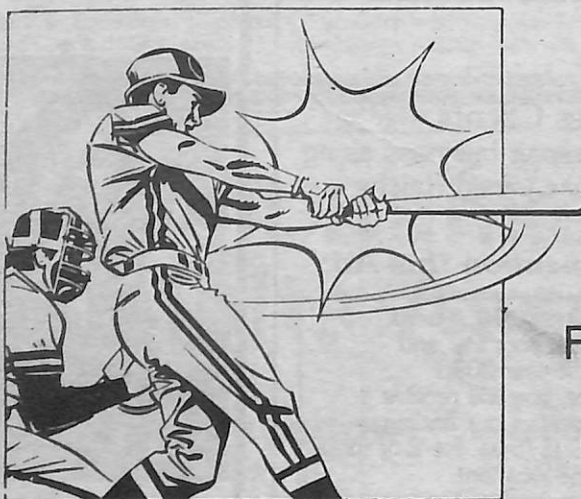
Captain Charles Leonard House

Main Street, Agawam Center

Registration Is \$40.00 Per Child

(Includes Raffle Tickets)

Copy Of Birth Certificate Is Needed If
You Didn't Turn One In Last Year



Sign-Up For:
Farm League, Minors,
And Majors
(Ages 5-12 As Of July 31st)

For More Information, Call
Rob Danie, 786-9493
Bruce Bussiere, 786-7492



Education

From AHS's Guidance Department...

The "Roads" We Choose Will Make All The Difference

by Judy Cohen
Guidance Counselor

Looking through a compilation of poems by Robert Frost, I came across "The Road Not Taken" and thought about its meaning. Frost is traveling along and sees two roads. Knowing that he cannot travel both of them, since he has to tread onward, he contemplates which one to take.

Where would each lead? He doesn't know. Would one be a better choice? He doesn't know. Does one look better? If it does, does that mean it is the better route? Is one more traveled? If yes, then is that road the better route? If he took one, would he be able to come back and do the other one at a later date? He thinks not since one road invariably leads into the next.

Which road should we travel? How many times do we ask ourselves that question? Think about your youngster. Should he take French, or should he take Spanish? Should he play an instrument? Should he play a sport? What friends does he choose who wish to walk down a certain road?

Now, ponder for a minute the consequences. If he takes psychology, for instance, that may lead him into making a choice about a future profession. If he chooses to walk the road with certain buddies, then he will not only see what's on that

particular road of life, but also he will become influenced by it.

What about you as a parent? Do you take the road filled with discipline or do you take the road filled with permissiveness, or perhaps there's a middle road, tempered by both?

Think about the way the road looks. Just because it is smooth, does that mean it is better? Perhaps it's better to take a bumpier one and learn from the jostling along the way that life is not always a smooth walk in the park. Maybe you have always taken the smoother one so now it's time to choose a different one, to force new experiences.

Once you take a road and your senses are impacted by what you meet along the way, then you will take those impressions with you as you continue your journey. In essence, then, each step you take invariably affects the next step you will take.

You see, all the choices you make are important. That's why it's important to think things through before you choose an appropriate path. Yet, you should realize that you will choose the wrong path at times, yet that will be beneficial,

too, since you will learn from every experience.

You will learn from the last road you took what road you should choose in the future. Also, you will learn that roads may converge, that there may be different routes to take to get to the same destination. That's why you may tackle a problem one way and your children, spouse, or whoever, may tackle it differently.

Yes, our lives are filled with many roads, but which ones we choose to travel will make all the difference. May you find your roads to be filled with new, exciting, and rewarding experiences. May the smooth spots appear more frequently than the rough ones. Enjoy your journey.

By the way, please take a road to the high school on Tuesday, December 8th, for Financial Aid Night. Dr. Lee Sirois, the financial aid officer from American International College, will take parents of seniors through the important steps necessary to apply for financial aid. He will be starting his presentation at 7:00 p.m.

I know you will want to come, listen, interact, and take plenty of notes. The knowledge you obtain will be invaluable.

Clark School Holds Thanksgiving Dinner...



AT JAMES CLARK SCHOOL'S fourth annual Thanksgiving Dinner in Room 11: IN LEFT PHOTO: Ryan Mansi, Randy Homes, Jessica Liquori, and Katelyn Moran; IN RIGHT PHOTO: Zach Demers, Assistant Superintendent Mary Czajkowski, Don Geiger, and Lauren Chartier. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Because of the large number of press releases, church notices, etc., that we receive during this time of the year, we cannot guarantee that these articles will appear more than once in our pages ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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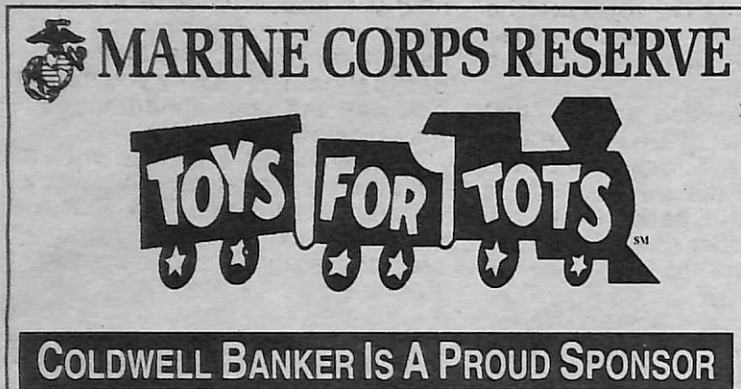


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The second-grade students of Barbara Daborowski at Phelps School recently thought about both the positive and negative aspects of living during "Colonial Times":

I would like to live in colonial times. I could ride in a wagon pulled by horses. I would like to carve wood. I would like to hunt for my food.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not be able to go out at night. I would not like beer and I would not like to sleep on hay.

Adam Ober

I'd like to live in colonial times. I like their dresses. It would be fun to sew and bake. Playing with wooden dolls would be fun, too.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like to take a bath in their water because they didn't know if it was clean. I would not like to leave school when I learned to read and write. I would want to walk outside at night without being punished.

Chelsea Theroux

I would like to live in colonial times. I would like to because I could ride a horse. I'd like to sew. I would like to stop going to school when I could read and write.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like to stand in the bath. I wouldn't like to not talk at the dinner table. I would not like to do chores all day!

Alison Woods

I would like to live in colonial times. I would be able to ride the horses. I would like to have pets in my house. I'd like the houses because they were pretty.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would get hit by the teach and I would not be able to have fun. I would get dunked under the water if I was punished. I would have to sit on hard benches.

Mistey Preston

I would like to live in colonial times. I would like to watch sheep. I also would like to try wearing their clothes and making the clothes.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like being hit by the teacher. Also I would not like sitting on hard benches. I wouldn't like standing up at the dinner table.

Patrick McLane

I would like to live in colonial times. I like riding horses. I like playing ball and tag. Hunting and fishing would be fun.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I don't like getting hit. And I don't like having no electricity. I don't like being punished in front of the whole world.

Zachary Noack

I would like to live in colonial times. I'd like to sew. And I would like to go out of school when I could read and write. I would like to fish with my brother.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I wouldn't like to get whipped. And I wouldn't like to sit on wooden benches. I also don't want to plant my own food.

Rachel Butt

I would like to live in colonial times. I would not



THE "ADVANTAGES" AND "DISADVANTAGES" of colonial times were recently discussed by Barbara Daborowski's second-graders at Phelps School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

have to go to school for a long time. I would see a lot. If I was sick, mom would put me near the fireplace.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I could not walk outside at night. I wouldn't want to be put on the ducking stool. If I sent a letter, my friend would not get it for a month.

Ashley Forsyth

I would like to live in colonial times. I would like to bring my ice skates to school. I would have a lot of friends. I would like to hunt for my food.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I wouldn't like to get punished for doing nothing bad. I wouldn't like to get whipped by the teacher. I wouldn't like to drink beer.

Jheremy Brown

I would like to live in colonial times. I could carve wood. I could hunt. I could ride a horse wagon.

I would not like to live in colonial times. The teacher could hit me. I could get whipped if I did something bad. I could get hanged by my hands.

Matthew

I would like to live in colonial times. I'd like to sew. I like their clothes a lot. They are pretty and I am a little like that.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like to take a bath in dirty water. I would still want to go to school even after I could read and write. And I would not like the food I would have to eat, like beer.

Alycia Atkinson

I would like to live in colonial times. I would stop school when I learned how to read and write. I'd like to sew, too. I'd like to make my own clothes.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I'd like to wear pants and a shirt sometime. I would like to play more. I would not like to get whipped.

Sandra Babbitt

I would like to live in colonial times. I'd like to only have to learn to read from the horn book and write. I'd like to make my own clothes and make a garden.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I don't want to get whipped and wear a sign on my neck. I wouldn't want to sit on hard benches or work on the coldest side of the room.

Kaitlyn Sherry

I would like to live in colonial times. Boys played with popguns, played ball, climbed trees.

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KID'S KORNER - from Page 38...

I would like to live in colonial times. I would be happy because only boys needed to go to school. I wouldn't need to hunt or fish for rabbits. I'd like to sew and knit.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like to be dipped in the water. I would not like to drink beer for breakfast.

Samantha Rafay

I would like to live in colonial times because eating with your hands is a good manner. I'd like to hunt. I could climb trees.

I wouldn't like to live in colonial times because the teacher could hit me if I was bad. I would have to share my plate. I wouldn't want to drink out of a wooden cup.

Kevin Mangano

I would like to live in colonial times. The men and boys hunted and fished. I think I would like to make dishes. It would be fun to grow a garden.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not want to call my dad sir or my mom mam. I would not like that I couldn't talk at the dinner table.

Jacob Garfield

I would like to live in colonial times. It would be fun to play with wooden dolls. I'd love to sew. I'd be lucky to stop going to school early.

I would not want to take a bath in a barrel. I would be sad for boys because they could be very cold in winter if they forgot wood for the fire at school.

Rebecca Stanton

I would like to live in colonial times. I would like to stop going to school. I'd want to learn to sew and I'd like to play with wooden dolls.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I wouldn't like to drink beer. I wouldn't like to be dunked on the dunking stool. I wouldn't like to sit on wooden benches.

Jillian Van Ness

I would like to live in colonial times. I would like to sleep on a bed made of hay. I would like to fish and hunt.

I wouldn't like to live in colonial times. I would not like to do chores. I would like to keep going to school after girls got to stop.

Zachary Benoit

I would like to live in colonial times. I'd like to fish. I would like to hunt. I would like to sit close to people. I would like to hear the news without reading it.

I would not like to live in colonial times. I would not like to get whipped at school. I would not like to work all the time. I would not like to wait a long time for someone to mail me a letter back. I would not like to sit on hard benches.

Michael Mead

I would like to live in colonial times because boys kept going to school. Eating with your hands was good manners. I would like it when we had time to play.

I would not like to live in colonial times because you could get a spanking or you could get dunked in the water. The older kids slept in the attic. And you would sleep on hay.

Bobby Johson

I would like to live in colonial times. Boys had to go to school longer than the girls. Girls and boys helped with the work. I would like to clean.

I would not like to live in colonial times. They couldn't talk at the dinner table. They used the same knife to eat with that they used to cut wood with.

Arianna Palazzi



THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS of Mrs. Janis Noyes at Phelps School were eager to share their Thanksgiving "stories" with readers of The Agawam Advertiser News. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

First-Grade Thanksgiving "Stories"...

The following Thanksgiving "stories" are from first-grade students of Mrs. Janis Noyes at Phelps School:

I like the stuffing. My cousins share Thanksgiving with me.

Megan Chisholm

I like Thanksgiving. The feast is good. I like turkey and pumpkin pie.

Alexander Cummings

I like Thanksgiving because it's a tradition. I like turkey.

Connor Foster

Thanksgiving is fun. We get to eat a lot of food.

Michael King

I like turkey. I go to my aunt's house. I play with my cousins.

Dean Breveleri

I love Thanksgiving. I like Thanksgiving.

Jenney Preston

I like Thanksgiving. The turkey is the best. The table is full of food.

Michael Beaulieu

I like Thanksgiving. It is a special day. We eat turkey. My grandma and grandpa come to my house.

Ricki Olson

I like Thanksgiving. I like cranberry sauce. I invite people to eat turkey.

Taylor Coulter

Thanksgiving is a good feast. The turkey is good.

Glen Johnson

I like Thanksgiving. We have a big feast. Thanksgiving Day is fun. It's Thanksgiving Day. It's a feast.

Andrew Ellsworth

Many people come to my house on Thanksgiving. These are lots of smells. I can smell corn, stuffing, gravy and turkey. It is a day for giving thanks.

Kevin Paulin

Thanksgiving is a day when families get together. We have lots of food. The best is turkey. We give thanks.

Sara Kochanowski

I like Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the best holiday. We go to Grandma and Grandpa's house.

Melissa Hryniewicz

I like Thanksgiving. I like to eat turkey.

Antonio Ferrentino

I like the turkey on Thanksgiving Day. My cousins come to my house to share my toys.

Victor Ciurleo

I eat turkey on Thanksgiving and then we have dessert. We play in the back yard and we have a feast.

Brittany Theroux

I like turkey. We give thanks and we pray.

Samantha Kelleher

I like Thanksgiving. We give thanks for good food.

Christopher Copeland

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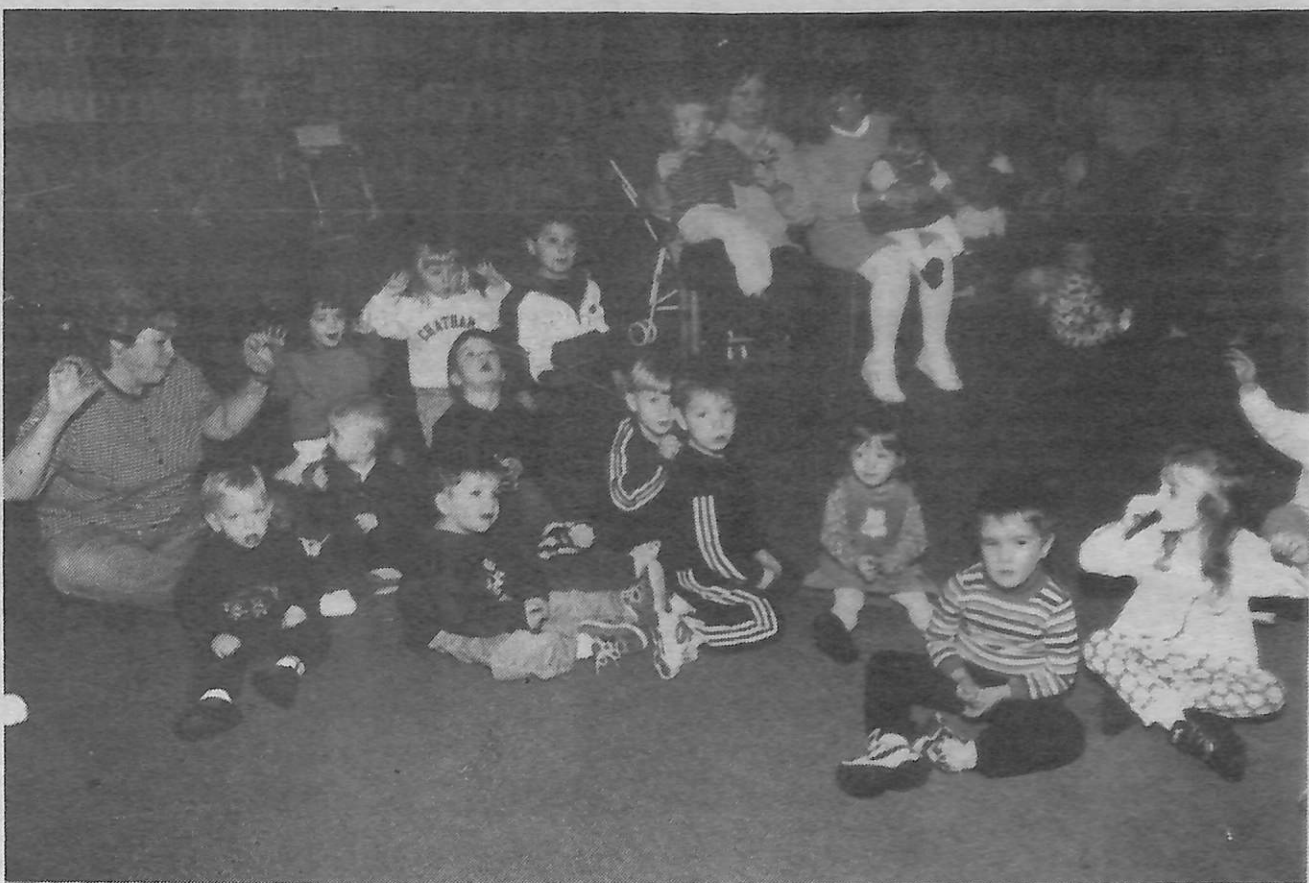
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Pilgrim Storyteller At Agawam Public Library...



"PRUDENCE THE PILGRIM" (left photo) stopped by the Agawam Public Library recently to share her lively interpretation of seasonal stories and songs with the children (right photo) in the Friday morning child care provider storyhours. This program was part of the library's celebration of Children's Book Week and was funded by the Community Partnerships for Children Grant. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 7th: Cheese-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with creamy Italian dressing, chilled peaches, milk.

Tuesday, December 8th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, steamed parsley rice, seasoned peas and diced carrots, bread and butter, blueberry crumb cake, milk.

Wednesday, December 9th: Baked hamburger and macaroni with tomato sauce, Italian bread and butter, seasoned broccoli cuts, chocolate brownie, milk.

Thursday, December 10th: Taco boat with cheese topping, seasoned niblet corn, rosy applesauce, peanut butter cookie, milk.

Friday, December 11th: Grilled cheese sandwich, oven French fries with catsup, seasoned diced carrots, raspberry jello with topping, milk.

(Tickets may be purchased on Monday in the elementary schools for the week. Meal price is \$1.10 daily. If paying by check, make check out to "Agawam School Lunch.")

Agawam Residents Graduate From Porter & Chester Inst.

Congratulations to Christopher Bokuniewicz (computer electronics) and Joy Gaudreau (medical assisting) of Agawam on their graduation from Porter and Chester Institute in Chicopee.

The graduation of 105 students took place at The Oaks in Agawam with attendance of 450 friends and family.

Like many Porter and Chester graduates who secure professional positions prior to graduation, Christopher Bokuniewicz is currently employed with Financial Partners, Inc. Good luck to the new graduates!

Porter and Chester Institute was founded in 1946. The institute offers six schools of study, including Office Technology Division; Architectural and Engineering Technology; Automotive Technology; Electronics and Computer Division; HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration) Division; and Medical Assisting.

Porter and Chester proudly acknowledges that around 90 percent of their graduates land jobs that match the training they received prior to graduation.

Details Regarding Sixth-Grade Trip To Washington, D.C. Discussed At Meeting

A meeting was held on Monday, November 16th, at the Agawam Middle School for the purpose of determining the length of the trip, to answer any questions there might be about the trip, and to distribute the candy to those who have chosen to sell it.

It was decided that the trip would remain at five days. The purpose of this trip is to give as many students as possible the opportunity to go to New York to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, to Washington, D.C. to see some of the many attractions, and to Philadelphia to learn about our history there.

Extending the length of the trip eliminated that opportunity for some of the students. Therefore, the trip will run from Sunday, April 18th, to Thursday, April 22nd, and will cost no more than \$375

per student. This price includes lodging, transportation, all meals, and entry fees to all attractions (where applicable).

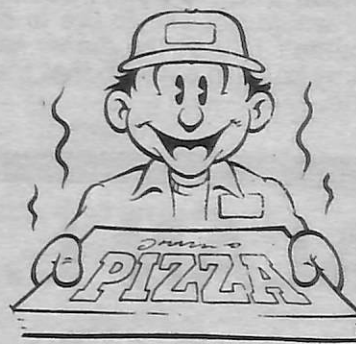
Our numbers increased by 50 percent at the November 16th meeting, so if you are planning to join us, please get your deposit in as the buses are now filling rapidly. Checks should be made out to the "Washington Trip Account" and sent in care of Rachel Thomas, 43 Janelle Drive, Agawam, MA 01001-2735. If you are interested in selling candy to help defray the cost of the trip (or have any other questions), please contact Rachel in the evening at 786-9896.

For those of you that have started selling candy, another shipment has arrived and is ready for distribution.

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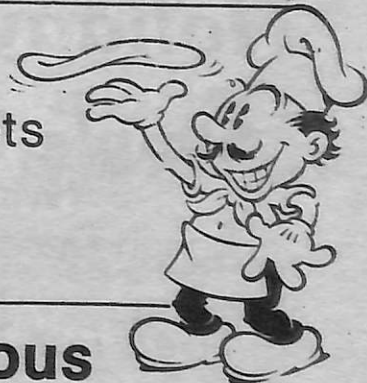
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Grinders Grinders Grinders!

Calzones Calzones Calzones!

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- Onion Rings
- Curly Fries



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Noted "Art Student"



ANNE MARIE KING (above), a junior at Agawam High School, is the "Art Student of the Month" for November. She is the daughter of Cheryl King of Agawam and William Hogan, Jr. of Springfield. Anne Marie is a third-year pottery student and enjoys dancing and sports as well as art. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Clark School P.T.O. Slates "Family Night" For Tuesday, Dec. 8th

Carla Chase, president of the Clark School P.T.O., has announced the decision to do away with the Family Store this year and to have, instead, a Family Night. So, on December 8th, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., parents can be with their children for an evening of fun and even a meeting with the Claus family.

The idea was borrowed from Fausey School in West Springfield. The P.T.O. discussed the possibility at their summer meeting and decided to have Family Night as a way for parents and youngsters to be together. Mr. & Mrs. Claus are planning to greet the kids in the gym.

There will be hayrides outside on the school grounds. Inside, in the new Media Center, it will be Christmas storytime, with a guest reader who is the children's librarian in the West Springfield Library. There will be make-your-own crafts in the gym and a special table set aside in the cafeteria for cookie decorating, complete with sprinkles and other "extras."

The Student Council will hold a popcorn sale in the cafeteria. The Student Council voted to raise \$200 for the Firefighters' Thermal Helmet, and the P.T.O. will match the \$200. There will also be a raffle with 20 prizes which were donated by local businesses and from people at the school.

The evening promises to be fun and beneficial for the parents, children, and participants, including teachers, storytellers, and the Claus couple.

Martin Giroux Is In UMass Amherst's Golden Key Chapter

Martin Giroux, son of Margaret McCormick, Corey Colonial, Agawam, has become a member of the University of Massachusetts Amherst chapter of Golden Key.

Golden Key is a national academic honor society formed to recognize and encourage outstanding scholastic achievement in all fields of study. Membership is by invitation to juniors and seniors who have maintained at least a 3.5 cumulative average on a four-point scale.

Giroux is a member of the Class of 2000 majoring in economics and psychology at the University, where he is a member of Psi Chi and Phi Theta Kappa honor societies. He graduated from Agawam High School in 1995.

All the hometown news

Area Students On Honor Roll At St. Mary's

The following Agawam/Feeding Hills students have been named to the honor roll for the first quarter at St. Mary's School in Longmeadow.

- * **Grade 8**
High Honors - Karen Prisby.
- * **Grade 6**
High Honors - Thomas DeCosmo.
Honors - Jillian Joyce and Jacqueline Svadeba.
- * **Grade 5**
High Honors - Michael Prisby.
Honors - Cathryn Joyce.

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Christmas Caroling Holiday Party At By Granger PTO

The Granger School PTO will be holding its annual Christmas Caroling Holiday Party on December 4th at 6:00 p.m.

We will meet at the school and carol at the Agawam Elderly Housing Complex on North Westfield Street. At 7:00 p.m., the lighting of the tree on the Granger Town Green will take place.

All are welcome to participate in a night of joyous celebration.

All the hometown news with us, each and every week...

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- Understanding points ... what they are ... when you should pay them ... when you shouldn't
- The many benefits of working with an Exclusive Buyer's Agent
- The difference between Buyer's Agents vs. Seller's Agents vs. Dual Agents
- Free Credit Analysis ... Free Mortgage Pre-Approval ... Free Interest Rate Lock
- What are closing costs ... and how you can easily reduce your "cash to close"
- The myths about banks and mortgage companies
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GIRL SCOUTS

THE GIRL SCOUTS

AS GREAT AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT

Brownie Troop 543 hit the road (more like the Northampton Bike Trail) recently for a five-mile bike-a-thon to help raise money for a trip to Boston we have planned during April vacation.

To prepare themselves and their bikes for the ride, each girls had her bike inspected, screws tightened, tires blown up, and chains oiled.

We were also fortunate to have Agawam's bike officer come to one of our meetings and explain bike safety, the importance of wearing your bike helmet, how your helmet should fit, and hand signals for riding.

Our troop recently went to Forest Park Zoo, where the girls worked on the "Animal" Try-It. With the help of a zoo guide, the girls learned about some of the endangered animals, what animals eat, why animals change their coloring, and a host of other animal facts. We ended our trip with a picnic lunch.

We have many other exciting things planned for the year, so stay tuned for more news from Troop 543.

* * *

On June 28th, the girls in Troop 562 took a trip with their leaders, Linda Albano, Joanne Prout, and Jean Manthas and Junior Girl Scout Sara Mantha to Boston.

This trip was a result of a lot of hard work and dedication among the girls during their cookie sale. They set their goals and with much success made this trip a reality.

We took off for Boston around 8:00 and headed for the Freedom Trail, which was first on our agenda following a trip to the Aquarium. This was a hit with everyone since it's not every day we are entertained by seals and dolphins.

We ended the day with a walk through Fanueil Hall, taking in all the unusual sights and a late dinner in the marketplace.

We arrived back in Agawam around 9:00 that evening.

This was one cookie sale that really paid off!! We would like to thank everyone that supported us in this cookie sale and helped make our trip a great success.

Bay Path College Plans Holiday Concert

The annual Bay Path College Holiday Concert and Service of Lights will take on an international flavor this year with the addition of Advent and Christmas music from the countries of Germany, France, Spain, Poland, Hungary, and England.

Selections will also include an African-American spiritual and a soloist performing Jester Hairston's *Mary's Little Boy Child*. The traditional event takes place on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mills Theatre, Carr Hall on the Longmeadow campus and is open to the public with no charge for admission.

Featured in the concert are the student members of Bay Path's Chorale and its smaller singing group, the Keynotes. Both are under the direction of Charles E. Page, director of music at the college. Included during the event are seasonal readings by the college chaplains, Rev. Thomas Roan of First Church of Christ in Longmeadow and Rev. Dariusz Wudarski of Saint Mary's Church, Longmeadow, and student members of the Interfaith Council.

* * *

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PARTICIPATING IN THE BIKE-A-THON (from left to right): Nicole Proulx, Erin Nichols, Stephanie Ruehl, Ali Bonavita, Vicky Langone, Jillian VanNess, Brie Bobecki, Megan Pietroniro, and Abby Martin.



ENJOYING THEIR VISIT TO THE FOREST PARK ZOO (from left to right): Ali Bonavita, Erin Nichols, Stephanie Ruehl, Brie Bobecki, Megan Pietroniro, Nicole Proulx, Abby Martin, Alyssa Bonavita, Jillian VanNess, Maria Graziano, and Vicky Langone.

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Agawam Police Part Of "Operation ABC"...



DURING THE WEEK OF November 23rd-29th, the Agawam Police Department participated in "Operation ABC" (America Buckles up Children). Officers such as Sgt. Steve Draghetti and Karen Langevin (above) were at the various elementary schools at dismissal time to remind parents to have their children in approved car safety seats or to be buckled in a seat belt. The Agawam Police Department took part in this nationwide effort of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration which was coordinated by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Bay Path College Schedules Open House For Sunday, Dec. 6th

Bay Path College will hold an Open House for prospective students and their families on Sunday, December 6th, from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

This informative session will include a campus tour; an opportunity to meet Bay Path President Carol Leary and faculty members; an overview of admissions and financial aid at the college; refreshments; and the presentations *Using the Web to Search for the "Right" College and Financial Aid*, and *Bay Path College: A Parent Perspective*.

For more information and to register, please call (413) 565-1331 or toll-free 1-800-782-7284.

'Parents Anonymous' Has Local Groups In Westfield

Parents Anonymous (PA) is a free and confidential support group for parents who would like their relationship with their children to be less stressful. At PA, parents have an opportunity to talk with others who may be having the same problems and fears and learn to deal with the stress of parenting in ways that are healthier and happier for the entire family.

Parents are welcome to join at any time and there are no fees or dues. Free child care is provided, and local groups meet in Westfield.

If you are interested in joining this special group, please call the Western Massachusetts Regional Coordinator at 731-5051.

Informational Mtg. On Students' MCAS Scores

During the week of December 7th, parents of students who are currently in grades five, nine, and 11 will receive the first annual individual school scores from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).

In May of 1998, students in grades four, eight, and 10 were administered the MCAS tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science/Technology. This measure of student performance was based on the rigorous Learning Standards contained within the Mass. Curriculum Frameworks.

On Thursday, December 10th, an informational session will be conducted for all parents, especially those with children in grades five, nine, and 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam Middle School auditorium. Even though a primary focus of this meeting will be student scores from the aforementioned grades, all parents are welcome to attend this session.

According to school officials, the evening's format will feature a panel comprised of principals, academic coordinators, and central office administrators, who will present an overview of the MCAS system and review school and district scores. Moreover, the panel will present its plan to address weaknesses in the curriculum that these scores revealed.

"This year's MCAS results will provide the Agawam School System with a baseline measurement by which our future scores will be compared," notes Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Frank Ameruso.

Assistant Superintendent Mary Czajkowski echoes his sentiments, stating that, "MCAS results provide a powerful tool for diagnosing the strengths and needs of individual students, schools, and districts." Both administrators agree that schools will be able to develop an action plan based on analysis of local results.

Another focus of the presentation will be a fostering of parent involvement in student academic work both in school and at home. An advocate of parent partnerships, Dr. Ameruso states, "Our goal is to bring all students to a higher level of performance by requiring a focused and sustained partnership with parents."

* * *

Because of the large number of press releases, church notices, etc., that we receive during this time of the year, we cannot guarantee that these articles will appear more than once in our pages ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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Sports

Brownies Win Third Straight Vs. Terriers...

Gallagher's Three TD's Carry Brownies Over West Side In 21-14 Turkey Day Struggle

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Statistics don't always tell much about the outcome of a football game. Sometimes, a roaring rainstorm, good field position, some luck, and a generous helping of guts thrown in for good measure can make all the difference.

That's about the way the script read in Agawam High's 21-14 Thanksgiving Day win over West Springfield High on Turkey Day. There was the rainstorm, which turned West Side's Clark Field into something resembling the Okefenokee Swamp. The Brownies always seemed to have that good field position.

Two key fumble recoveries and an interception didn't hurt their fortunes. And their tailback and All-Western Mass. linebacker, Brian Gallagher, faced a gut check as his left shoulder, dislocated in the season opener against Greenfield and aggravated all year long, vacated its socket twice during the game.

It all meant the Terriers, coming in at 1-8 (but left at 1-9) and pumped up the way underdogs usually are, managed 211 total yards (199 rushing, 12 passing) to 4-6, Agawam's 145 (142 rushing, 3 passing). But it wouldn't matter in the end.

West Side's fine back, Chris Barker, had 157 yards on 20 carries to lead all rushers, including one for 35 yards and one for a 74-yard touchdown. "Yeah, he did well, but when you look at the stats, most of what he got was on those two runs," Gallagher noted. "That didn't impress us all that much."

Gallagher, for his part, managed 31 yards on 11 carries, plus an interception. But he scored three times. "We knew he was really hurting and tried to set him up as best we could," junior quarterback Brian St. Jean said. "He is one hard-nosed football player."

And set him up they did. Gallagher's longest run was seven yards on his first carry of the game. He scored on efforts of four, two, and two yards.

A New Look

The Brownies had practiced all week on a new look for the Terriers. "We were going back to the 'I' formation. Coach (Dean) Vecchiarelli felt I would be more effective in that set. But the rain had a lot to do with us dumping it early on," Gallagher said.

The fact that the big back had to leave the game frequently to get his shoulder taped and re-taped by trainer Dave Stratton also forced Vecchiarelli into the option, which St. Jean (9-43), Jason Daigneau (8-42), and Mike O'Connor (11-26) executed despite the elements.

Agawam could do little in its first two possessions (a Gallagher fumble ended one session). The other saw them go three and out.

West Side got its first score with 2:09 gone in the first quarter. They took the punt on their own 37 and drove 63 yards in seven plays, hitting paydirt on a two-yard Barker run. For most of that time Gallagher was on the sideline, shirt off and resembling a mummy from his shoulders to his waist.

The quarter ended with West Springfield up, 6-0.

After a fine, 15-yard punt return by Mike O'Connor, Agawam took control at its own 49-yard line with 10 minutes to go in the half. Behind Daigneau, St. Jean, and a 15-yard personal foul penalty on the Terriers, the Brownies found themselves camped on the West Side four.

Gallagher, back in, got the call. He had enough traction in the muck to bull the ball into the end zone. The kick was good and made it 7-6, Agawam. The drive took six plays and 2:59 off the clock.

It was a day that made the passing game about as rare as having a main course of steak on the Thanksgiving table. Agawam would go 1-6. West Side would manage 1-8.

Goopy Conditions A Hit With Defenses

Both defenses, as defenses often do, seemed to like the goopy conditions. The West Springfield defenders got a huge break with 1:09 left in the first half. They had the Brownies backed up to their one-yard line. Agawam, looking at a third and long, tried some trickery - a quick kick. "We didn't think they'd be expecting it. But the ball was so slippery, I couldn't get a handle on the darn thing," St. Jean said afterwards. "It was lucky I fell on the ball in the end zone, rather than one of their guys. Things might have been different."

His effort resulted in a two-point safety, which was a darn sight better than a touchdown. It did, however, send the Terriers into the lockerroom with an 8-7 lead.

With Gallagher in and out of the game to start the second half, both teams dug in on defense. The Brownie 'D' was shocked at the 2:48 mark of the third quarter. West Springfield had a second and eight situation at its own 26. Barber took the

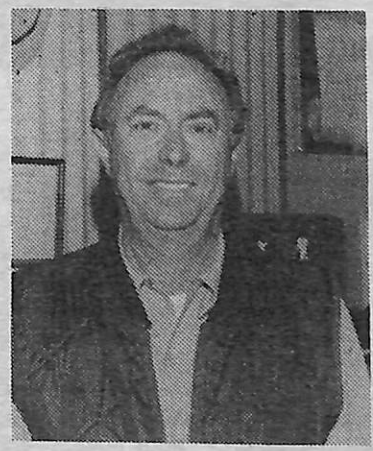
hand-off from quarterback Bob Arnett and ran it right up the gut. He broke free at the 35 and was on his way.

Defensive backs Alex Almquist and Daigneau were in hot pursuit. Almquist closed to within a couple yards and made a desperation dive for the tackle at the 10, but the Terrier back just had that

SEE BROWNIES WIN - Page 45...



AGAWAM HIGH CHEERLEADERS lead members of the student body in cheers at the Annual West Side Rally held in the AHS gym on Wednesday, November 25th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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BROWNIES WIN - from Page 44...

one step and a 74-yard scoring run with a second left in the quarter.

The Brownies started the period down, 14-7. They went three and out on their first possession. St. Jean's punt went 30 yards to the West Side 36. Soaked Lady Luck then smiled upon them. The drenched ball was fumbled at the Terriers' 37. Ryan Longtin, a 5'11", 180-pound senior who has done excellent duty for the Brownies all year long, especially on offense, pounced on it.

"That was a huge play. We knew we had to capitalize on it by sticking the ball into the end zone," St. Jean said. And they did.

Brownies Take The Lead

Six plays later (highlighted by a 16-yard run from Daigneau and a 10-yard scamper compliments of St. Jean), Gallagher brought it in from the two with 8:33 left behind some serious blocking by right guard Bob Fuller and right tackle Mike Wood. Longtin then caught the two-point conversion to give Agawam a 15-14 lead.

The Terriers still had a lot of life left in them. But a good portion of it was taken away with seven minutes to go. Senior defensive back Ryan Drobot, another unsung hero on the Agawam squad, picked off Arnett in the right flat at the Terriers' 35.

The Brownies were facing another opportunity and again, they made the most of it. O'Connor, after a 57-yard run was killed by a penalty, saddled up again and ran 18 yards to the West Side 47. St. Jean added another 20. Gallagher chipped in with six.

There was 3:09 to go in the game and the Brownies were on the Terriers' 20. A score at this point would in all probability make West Side a goner. Gallagher got his third touchdown of the game on a two-yard run behind the power blocking of Rob Liard, Eric Pederson, and Lou Conte. The kick went wide, but the Brownies had a 21-14 edge.

The Agawam kickoff was a soggy, spinning, wormburner that arrived at midfield trailing a rooster tail of spray. The Terrier up-men couldn't handle it, but Agawam tri-captain Bob Fuller could, recovering the rebound at the 50. It was then that the Terrier faithful knew it was a done deal, despite an all-out effort by the blue and white.

With 58 seconds left and West Side out of timeouts, the Brownies knelt on the ball as the clock ran down and finally out, giving them their third straight win and a 49-21-3 edge in their 73-game series that dates back to 1924.

STATS: Rushing - Gallagher (11-31, 3 tds); St. Jean (9-43); O'Connor (11-26); Daigneau (8-42).

PASSING: St. Jean (1-6, 1 pat, 1 int); Daigneau (0-2).

RECEIVING: Longtin (1-3, 2 points).

DEFENSE: Interception - (Drobot, Gallagher); Fumble recovery (Longtin, Fuller).

WEST SPRINGFIELD: Rushing Barker (20-157, 2 tds); Torrez (3-35); Arnett (4-7).

PASSING: Arnett (1-8, 12 yds, 2 int.)

RECEIVING: Fletcher (1-12 yds)

DEFENSE: Fumble recovery (Perez); Interception (Hopkins).

BROWNIE NOTES: Agawam finishes their '98 season at 4-6, up from their 3-6-1 '97 season, but not as good as their 5-5 slate in '96. Brian Gallagher, who finished the year with 618 yards on 136 carries (4.5 average) was well off his 929 yards on 211 attempts (4.4 average) in '97. Brian missed the Longmeadow and Cathedral games because of his shoulder injury.

On January 6th of next year, he'll enter Mercy Hospital for surgery, designed to correct the dislocation. He will then convalesce for six months with a program of therapy and exercise. Hopefully, he'll be ready in time to attend a prep school, where he'll continue his academic and athletic careers. He had 12 touchdowns a pair of two-point conversions for a total of 76 points. This was good for second place in the AA Conference behind Cathedral's Mike Buoniconti (94 points). Gallagher had 12 touchdowns as a junior a year ago.

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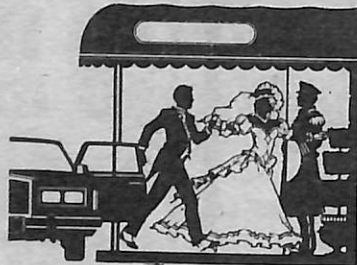


AGAWAM HIGH CHEERLEADERS perform in front of the student body at the Annual West Side Rally on Wednesday, November 25th, in the school's gym. IN PHOTO RIGHT, varsity football Coach Dean Vecchiarelli brings his son, a future AHS Brownie, into the gym much to the delight of those in attendance. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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Thanksgiving Homecomings...

Life At The Citadel A Far Cry From Home For 1998 AHS Grad Andy St. Jean

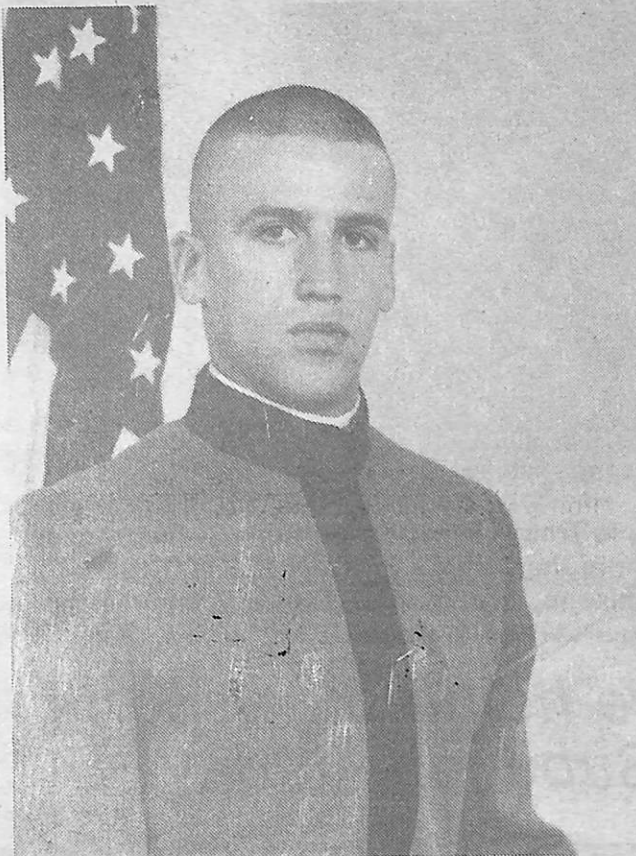
by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Thanksgiving is a homecoming for kids who have just gone off to college the previous August. They come back from the places they've gone, sometimes far away, sometimes totally different from anything we might experience around here. They bring with them stories to tell and experiences to be shared.

So it was over this past weekend. We caught up with 1998 Agawam High graduate **Andy St. Jean**, who was a valued member of the Brownie football and baseball teams over the last few seasons.

You might remember his Mohawk haircut in the Western Mass. baseball playoffs. He got it all sheared off when he went to The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina a few months ago. You might recall that place if you are a fan of Pat Conroy, a graduate there and the author of such novels as *"The Lords of Discipline"* and *"The Prince of Tides."*

In the *"Lords of Discipline,"* a story of life at a tough Southern military school, he told the story of The Citadel. The movie was filmed there. Who can forget the parade quadrangle scenes? Of course, he used a lot of poetic liberties.



ANDY ST. JEAN

Not Like The Movie

"No, it's not like that," Andy smiled. "It isn't anything like the movie. I was only nervous going in because it is so far from home (18 hours by car

from Springfield) and it was going to be tough moving from a civilian life to a military one," he noted. Andy had been ticketed for West Point. But a shoulder injury kept him from becoming a cadet there.

"Yeah, I would have liked to have gone to the Academy. But this is working out. They were really tough on us the first few weeks. But only four kids from my freshman class left. The ones who go there are very dedicated to graduate. If you are willing to give everything you have, they'll give you everything they have to make sure you graduate and get the ring."

The ring? What's that? "I really can't explain it. But the ring is part of the mystique of this place. When you get it upon graduation, you have earned it," Andy said.

He explained life on a campus that resembles a scene right out of the old Southern aristocracy. "As you move up from freshmen, where we were all called Cadet Recruits until last October, to a cadet private, which we are now, to the ranks of the upper classmen, privileges are awarded by merit and achievement. Everything you get here requires a great deal of work."

For the past two years at The Citadel, according to Andy, you are always in uniform when you step onto the campus to attend classes. "In our junior year, we can wear civies (civilian clothes) on occasion. Also, as seniors, we can have televisions in our dorm rooms."

Andy was at the top of his class academically at Agawam High. He is doing the same thing in college. His major is political science with a minor in French. At AHS, he was the president of the senior class. He still has the desire to get into big-time politics someday. "I'm continuing my education in French, which I took for four years at Agawam, because that is the language, after English, that is spoken the most in international politics."

For those who have never been to Charleston, South Carolina, Andy said people around here would be impressed. "It is so beautiful. I really can't describe it the right way," Andy said, then adding, "We get our passes for the weekend for Friday and Saturday nights and go there. The people are so friendly. The restaurants are great. It is a special place. You can't help but love it. Charleston is so different from the Western Massachusetts area. It's a whole new way of life."

Not Much Time For Homesickness

When you are so many miles away from home, loneliness must set in. "I don't have much time to get that way. Mail call is great. But I have a computer in my room, so I can e-mail stuff to my family and get back anything they want to say to me. That helps," Andy smiled.

We can't forget about athletics. "No, I thought I might be able to play baseball here. No way. Everyone is on scholarship. I could have made the team, but at the most, I would have been a reserve. I've never been a reserve and would not



1998 AHS GRAD Andy St. Jean pictured on the campus of The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

be one here," Andy said.

But he has found a new sport, one he might never have considered. "I'm a member of The Citadel crew team on an eight-oared shell. A friend of mine told me to try out for it. I did, and got a position. It's great," he smiled.

The Citadel offers a world of opportunity, according to him. If you complete their very difficult requirements, you can go two ways; into civilian life with your major behind you, or into the military as a commissioned second lieutenant. If that is the way you go, four years will be the time you have to give to Uncle Sam.

"I don't have to make that decision until my junior year," Andy said. He also admitted that when that time comes, it will be a tough call, which requires some deep thought.

Andy is the son of Denis and Susan St. Jean of Feeding Hills.

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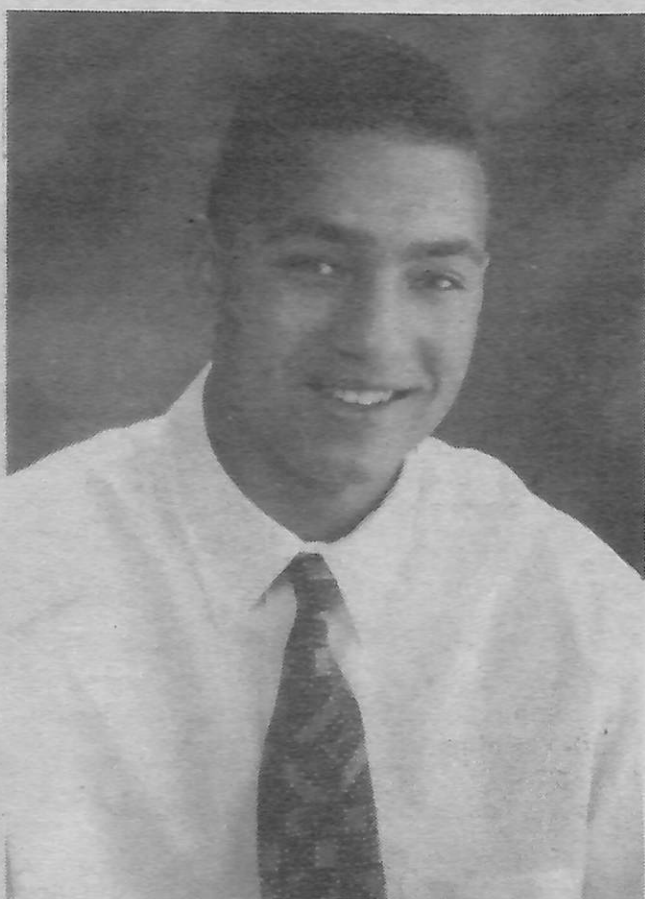
Your Family And Friends

More Thanksgiving Homecomings...

McGeoghan Finds Black Bear Country Much Friendlier Than Life In The City

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Phil McGeoghan, a 1997 Agawam High School graduate, was also home on Thanksgiving. The former Brownie football, basketball, and track star has had quite a college career already and he's only a sophomore. We all remember when Boston University sold him on going there to continue his academic and athletic career. Things in the classroom were fine for Phil. It was in the area of athletics where they sold him and a bunch of other kids a bill of goods — dropping football as the team finished up the 1997 fall season. That left a lot of scholarship athletes twisting in the wind.



1997 AHS GRADUATE Phil McGeoghan is now playing for the UMaine Black Bears.

So, Phil accepted a full boat from the north country and transferred to the University of Maine, up in Orono. He hasn't missed a beat.

He was on the sidelines with the AHS Brownies during the West Springfield Thanksgiving Day game. "I really enjoy coming back for the

holidays," he smiled. "I like to see all my old friends and it's even better when we beat West Side."

He also commented on the conditions under which the two teams played — a raging rainstorm. "I participated in a game just like that in my junior year (1995) against Amherst. With that type of situation, the toughest team usually wins."

The "Closeness" Of The AHS Team...

He also remembered the closeness of the AHS football team. "We were all together at practice and in our meetings with the coaches. A lot of us hung out together during and after school as well. In college, it just doesn't happen. Every unit — offense, defense, special teams, and the like — is basically separate, with their own situations to discuss and their own coaches to discuss them with."

Which brings us to Phil at the University of Maine. He is still tall (6'3") and a lean 205 pounds — perfect wide receiver size. It was his position at BU and still is at Maine. He is doing well. This past season, he had 40 catches for 500 yards and five touchdowns for the 6-5 Black Bears.

In one of their biggest games of the season, a 39-26 win over perennial 1-AA power, Delaware, he had five grabs for 75 yards. They also had a good win against Villanova (44-10), which at the time was undefeated. He had two TD's in a six-point loss to 1-A Pittsburg.

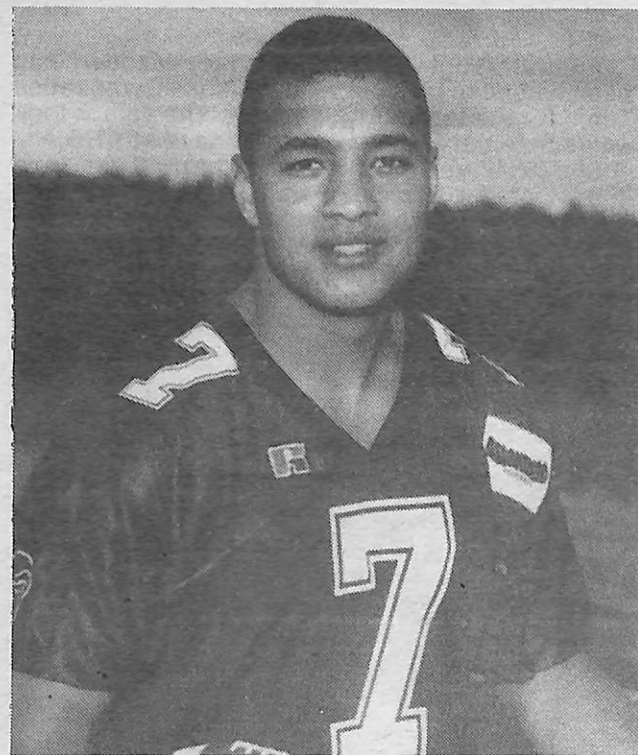
According to Phil, there is a huge difference between Maine football and the game they used to play at Boston University. "The whole state is behind Maine athletics. Every one of our home games was televised. Many of our away games were as well. We ended up with eight of our 11 games on TV," he said, adding, "At BU, there was only intermittent interest in the program."

Which brings up the question — is he bitter at the treatment the Terriers gave him and their other football players? "Maybe a little," he responded. "But that feeling fades with time. They did what they felt they had to do. Life goes on. I'm very happy at Maine. I think I've landed on my feet."

It looks as though he's being groomed to replace one of the best wide receivers ever to play in New England, UMaine's Drew O'Conner. The 6'5", 220-pound senior attracted the attention of NFL scouts from every team after he caught 75 balls for over 1,100 yards and 16 touchdowns this season. "They were there for all of our games and all our practices, checking him out. If I'm going to be the primary guy next year, it will be a big challenge," Phil noted.

His Primary Sport...

Of course, as well as he was known for football, track is probably still his primary sport. He was a



FORMER AHS FOOTBALL STAR Phil McGeoghan caught 40 passes good for 500 yards and five touchdowns for the University of Maine Black Bears in the 1998 fall season.

high school All-American, holds the state record in the high jump, and the Maine record in that discipline (7'1") as well. He has been all over the country competing in track and field.

On Saturday, December 5th, he'll be (of all places) down at Boston University to participate in the New England Collegiate Championships.

Phil was a marketing major at BU. He is still a marketing major at Maine. His 3.2 GPA last semester earned him a spot on the Dean's List. It also earned him a nomination to enter the honors program at UMaine.

It hasn't been easy. Between academics and athletics, plus a change of schools, there seems to be no time for much else except sleep. "It seems I'm always tired," he said, then added, "But I remember something my grandmother, Betty Reardon, would say: 'I stay tired to keep from getting tired.'"


Phil plans to keep doing what he's been doing since he decided to be a scholar-athlete: "I'll give 100 percent to my classes and athletics. Hopefully, in the end, it will all be worth the effort."

* * *

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* * *

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Profile - Lindsey Hadden...

Lindsey Hadden Four-Time Member Of All-WMass Gymnastics Team

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High gymnast Lindsey Hadden has been named to the All-Western Mass. Gymnastics Team for the fourth straight year. The senior took some time out to talk about her days at AHS.

She is 17 years-old and will turn 18 on June 18th. Lindsey has been at the school for four years. Currently, she is taking English, math, computer science, and some electives. Lindsey says her favorite course is English. Margo Poulin is her top teacher.



LINDSEY HADDEN is pictured at a recent practice.

So far, Lindsey is still looking at colleges. Right now, Southern Connecticut seems to be tops on her list. Springfield College is a possibility as well. She has had calls from as far away as Idaho (Boise State) and Louisiana. She would like to major in physical therapy wherever she ends up.

Besides gymnastics, Lindsey also participates in track and field. She heaves the shot put and throws the discus. Last year, she came in second in Western Mass. in the latter. Gymnastics is still her favorite sport, however.

Making School History

Lindsey's special sports moment came last year when the team won the Western Mass. crown for the first time in the school's gymnastic history.

The senior has mixed emotions on the just completed season. "We won the league, which was nice. But Western Mass. was out of our reach. I couldn't compete because of my knee injury and Leila (All-Western Mass. sophomore Leila Sekkal) was out as well. So, right there, we were out of the points. The other girls gave it all they had. It wasn't meant to be, I guess."

It was a frustrating end to Lindsey's gymnastic career. She has been battling an injury to her right knee for the past three years. "Way back, I tore the meniscus. It's a cartilage in the knee joint made up of tough fiber."

She has had three surgeries to repair the tear. Unfortunately, it kept tearing a little more after the operations. She gutted it out, but finally the pain became just too much. "It wasn't only my doctor who told me I shouldn't compete in Western Mass. My feelings had a lot to do with that decision. I don't think I could have helped the team very much," Lindsey admitted. So, she went along to give moral support.

She was to be in Boston on Thursday, December 3rd at Children's Hospital to see renowned orthopedic surgeon Lyle Micheli. "He'll take a look at the knee and make a decision on what the proper course of treatment should be. It's very possible I'll have to undergo another operation. Hopefully, this one will clear up the problem," she said.

Her favorite food is pizza. Green is her color of choice. The car she likes the best is the one she drives - a 1998 Cavalier.

Anywhere with her friends is the place she likes to hang out.

Lindsey likes casual and comfortable clothes. She enjoys shopping for them in the vastness of the Holyoke Mall.

When asked about music, she replied, "I like everything but country."

"Dawson's Creek" is tops on the tube for her.

Her mom's name is Linda. Bob is her dad. She has a sister, Shauna, an AHS grad, who is in her first year at Suffolk University in Boston.

Lindsey says she looks up to her grandfather, Tony, who is her mom's dad. "I love him. He is such a great guy who will do anything for you," she smiled.

How would Lindsey like to be remembered at AHS when her days there are done? "I want them to know I was a nice kid who liked to help everyone if I could."

Gymnastics Coach Angela Sullivan already knows that, and more. "Lindsey is one of the best athletes I've ever coached. Her work ethic is tremendous, so is her personality. She is very competitive as well."

The coach also mentioned that she recommended Dr. Micheli. "He helped me when I had a serious wrist injury during my competitive days. He is known worldwide. If he can't help her, no one can. I think she'll be okay, though."



LINDSEY HADDEN

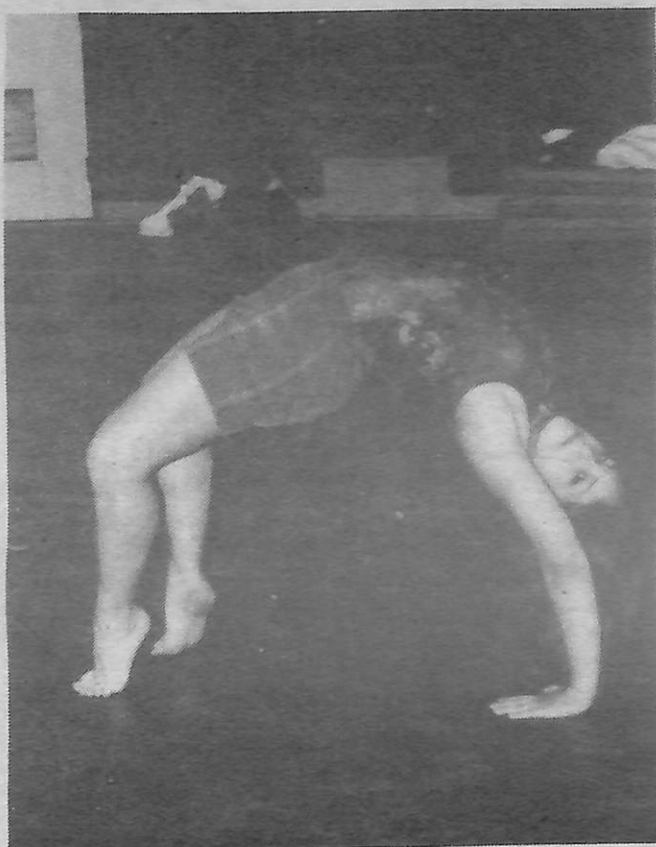
Leila Sekkal Again On All WMass Gymnastics Team

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

A second member of the Agawam High gymnastics team was also named to the All-Western Mass. team — sophomore Leila Sekkal. She is one of the top all-arounders in Western Mass. Her 32.8 in the all-around this season was a personal best for her.

While she is strong in the vault, beam, and bars, the floor is where she shines. Her routines are graceful and catlike. She does her tumbles and flips to music that rumbles with a deep, thunderous beat, such as the powerful "Tribal Dance."

This is Leila's second time on the team. Last season, she won the all-around title in the sectionals. Unfortunately, she was not available to help the Brownies defend their Western Mass. gymnastics title this year.



AHS GYMNAST LEILA SEKKAL. Photo courtesy of Jen Niedziela, AHS Yearbook staff photographer.

Bethany Reid Competes For West Side Aquatic Club

The West Side Tsunamis Aquatic Club (a United States Swim Team out of West Springfield) traveled to Buzzards Bay to compete at the Mass Maritime Academy against New England's best swimmers.

Among the club's competitors was Bethany Reid of Agawam, who placed sixth in the 200 IM and seventh in the 100 breaststroke.

The Tsunamis came home to Western Mass. with the knowledge that they could compete with the best. West Side head coach David Dembowitz stated, "The kids really let their swimming speak for them this weekend. We had tremendous swims from everyone. The meet was fast and the kids rose to the challenge and competed. That is all I could ask for."

After swimming well in Cape Cod, the Tsunamis were scheduled to compete at Smith College on November 28th and 29th.

If you have any questions about the Tsunamis, check out the club's web page — www.westside-tsunamis.com.

* * *

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Two Brownies On All-Western Mass. Golf Team...

After 2nd Place Finish In States, Rousseau Receives Fourth Term As All-Western Mass.

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Rarely does a high school athlete in any sport come along who keeps up a high level of competitive excellence throughout their career. Agawam High senior golfer Chris Rousseau is one of those people.

He was named to the All-Western Mass. golf team for the fourth time in his career. As a sophomore, he was the Western Mass. champion. He finished second in the States a month ago. His stroke average of 36.3 enabled him to medal in 15 of the team's 18 league matches in 1998.



CHRIS ROUSSEAU IS ready to tee-off for the Agawam Brownies. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

Chris took some time out to discuss his days at AHS. He turned 18 on November 11th. Chris stands 5'7" and weighs 155 pounds. He has been at the High School for four years. He is taking a heavy course load - Latin, anatomy and physiology, calculus, economics, English, sociology, psychology, and culinary arts. Chris should become a member of the National Honor Society before the year is over. His favorite course is anatomy and physiology.

Because of his academic and golf skills, many colleges have been in touch. He has five that interest him: Siena College in Loudonville, New York; the University of Hartford, the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia; the University of Virginia; and Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

He will take on a tough task wherever he ends up; pre-med or some discipline that involves the sciences. "I'd like to be a surgeon someday. But that's a long road. We'll see," Chris said.

Golf, of course, is his signature game. But in the spring, he'll try his hand at baseball as a catcher for the Brownies. "I've always liked baseball and would have gone out for it when I was a freshman. But golf became so big for me that there seemed to be some kind of tournament somewhere during the baseball season." (Golf is now a fall sport.)

Most Memorable Sports Moment

His most memorable sports moment came as a sophomore when he won the Western Mass. individual title. He recalls it proudly. "It was the 18th hole up at The Orchards in South Hadley (for the tournament a 409 par 4). I was playing Longmeadow's Larry Nugar. I beat him there with

a three wood tee shot, a 233-yard, three wood second shot, a chip to the green from behind a tree that went four feet behind the hole, and a gut check par putt. I needed that par to win the title. Larry bogeyed the hole. All he needed was a par to beat me," Chris smiled.

Then he added, "As far as my career went, I accomplished about all I wanted. The state title (which he lost by a stroke this year) wasn't quite there."

His favorite food is a meatball grinder.

Blue is his hue.

His auto of choice would be a late model Corvette.

His favorite athlete is golfer Greg Norman.

He likes to dress in nice, but comfortable, and casual clothes. Sketchers Shoes feel good on his feet.

Music is no problem. "I like anything but country. The Beastie Boys are my favorite group," Chris said.

"Seinfeld" is his top tube pick.

His mom is Jan. Bob is his dad. He has a brother, Jeff, of AHS soccer fame (currently playing soccer at WNEC and the AHS freshman soccer coach), and a sister, Kerry, who is a lawyer in Hartford.

He looks up to his mother. "She is amazing. When I have a problem, she is always there. She is taking care of all the paper work that goes along with getting into college. She takes care of me."

Chris' high school career is coming to an end. "I want to be remembered there as a kid who thought he could make it anywhere in life. I had some friends who didn't even know I played golf and did well at it. They liked me for me. I'm very quiet, but that's the way I view people, too."

His coach, Paul Bachini, who has guided AHS golf for over a decade, had this to say about his four-time All-Western Mass. performer: "He is good and humble. I hope I get more like him. He set so many examples - extra practice, studying the game, confidence, the ability to adjust, and even though he lost at times, he never thought he could lose. That last thing will be his legacy here."



ROUSSEAU PLACED SECOND AT THE ANNUAL STATE MEET to cap off his brilliant career at AHS. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

Soph. Andy Green Key To Future Of Agawam High Golf

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The other Agawam High golfer who made All-Western Mass. was sophomore Andy Green. Just a kid, he was not surprised.

"No, I got there because of my putting. It comes naturally to me. With practice, it only gets better. I'm confident I can two-putt any green."



SOPHOMORE ANDY GREEN was sixth in Western Mass. and placed 14th in the state.

Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

He won his spot in the States with a sixth-place, 78-stroke performance in the Western Mass. Championships. In the States at the Springfield Country Club, his score (45-45 - 90) tied him in 14th among a field of 37. "I just couldn't get anything to drop that day," he said. "The wind didn't bother me at all. I'm a good striker of the ball."

His record in match play this season was 11-6-3 playing out of the number five and four spots. "My best match of the year was against another very good player, Dan Dickson of East Longmeadow. His is an All-Western Mass. player, too. His record was 18-1. I was the only one to beat him out of the four hole last year, two and one."

Coach Paul Bachini had this to say of the sophomore: "He is another kid who has talent. Andy is part of the future of our program."

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U-8 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
B'Shara's	3	0	0	6
Lightning	3	1	0	6
Green Giants	2	1	0	4
Games & Lanes	1	3	0	2
Fire Balls	0	4	0	0

U-10 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Twisters	3	0	0	6
Black Shadow	2	1	0	4
Titanics	1	2	0	2
Bluejays	0	3	0	0

U-10 BOYS (DIV. 1)	W	L	T	P
Ball Hogs 1	4	0	0	8
Holyoke	3	1	0	6
Ball Hogs 2	1	2	0	2
West Side	1	2	0	2
Bandits	0	4	0	0

U-10 BOYS (DIV. 2)	W	L	T	P
Flames	3	0	0	6
Falcons	2	1	0	4
Games & Lanes	2	1	0	4
Hot Shots	1	2	0	2
Mongeau	1	2	0	2
Predators	0	3	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Agawam (Marsili)	2	0	0	4
West Side	1	1	0	2
Red Devils	1	1	0	2
Cosmos	0	2	0	0

Gigantic Ski Sale Set At Blandford Ski Area On Sun., Dec. 6th

On Sunday, December 6th, the Blandford Ski Area will host a gigantic ski sale in partnership with the Ski-In ski shops of Wilbraham and Agawam.

New and used ski and snowboard equipment as well as winter apparel will be on sale for savings of up to 75 percent.

Memberships in the Springfield Ski Club, owner and operator of the Blandford Ski Area since 1936, will also be available for just \$179 per person, a \$20 saving off the regular season rate. This pre-season rate will be offered until December 6, 1998.

Memberships include a season pass and discounted ski and snowboard lessons at Blandford Ski Area; a Stratton Express Card for just \$20 (reg. \$89) for savings of 25-50 percent off lift tickets at Stratton Mt., Vermont (just a two hour drive from Springfield); eligibility to enter club races and join the Blandford Race Team; and discounted tickets to club social events!

There will also be a ski swap area for club members to show, sell, and swap their used gear.

Blandford's PSIA Ski Sale, the Blandford Ski Area Race Team, Club Board of Directors, and mountain staff will be on hand to answer your questions or show you around. It's a great chance to visit and hike around our mountain. Weather permitting, hot air balloon rides will be available at a nominal fee for a unique view of our mountain.

The Blandford Ski Area, located about 1/2-hour west of Springfield (just off Rte. 20) in Blandford, MA, has been providing friendly, affordable, family skiing and riding since 1936 and is the oldest continuously operating, club-owned ski area in North America.

Blandford will operate 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. from December 26th to early March, Friday-Sunday and School vacations and holidays. After doubling our snowmaking power last season, our three double chairs, T-bar, and beginner lift servicing 26 beginner to intermediate trails, operated all but one scheduled weekend last season despite the lack of natural snowfall.

Our 1998/99 season will feature an improved 1/2 pipe and terrain park and special learn-to-ski offers for young families wanting to learn to ski and snowboard. Group rates are available for area schools and organizations.

For more information, contact Marketing Director Jay Pagluica at (860) 683-7385, ext. 826 or Office Manager Julie Swol at (413) 848-2860.

Piranhas Lose To Wilbraham Team

The Agawam Piranhas swim team lost against the Wilbraham team by a score of 384-424 on November 21st at the Agawam Junior High School. The results included:

Girls 8 & under:

Taryn Dooley, first in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Krystinia Albano, Taryn Dooley, Brittany Sullivan, and Kathryn Malone placed third in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Krystinia Albano, third in 25-yard butterfly.

Boys 8 & under:

The team of Patrick Skelley, Andrew Ardolino, Nathan Fraga, and David Dominik placed first in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

David Dominik, second, and Patrick Skelley, third in 25-yard freestyle.

Antonne Mathes, first, David Dominik, second, and Nathan Fraga, third in 50-yard freestyle.

Andrew Ardolino, second, and Patrick Skelley, third in 25-yard backstroke; and Andrew Ardolino, second in 25-yard breaststroke.

Girls 9-10:

The team of Tammy Gorman, Johannah Kos, Julie Gorman, and Brittany Gutowski placed second in the 200-yard medley relay; and the team of Katelyn Iacolo, Caitlin Hurley, Allison Nyman, and Angela Virella placed third.

Tammy Gorman, first in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Caitlin Hurley, Katelyn Iacolo, Allison Nyman, and Angela Virella placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Jennifer Bouley, Brittany Gutowski, Meghan Henry, and Tara Walker placed second.

Katelyn Iacolo, third in 50-yard freestyle; Julie Gorman, first in 50-yard butterfly; Johannah Kos, first in 100-yard freestyle; Tammy Gorman, third in 50-yard backstroke; and Johannah Kos, first in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 9-10:

Anthony Ardolino, first in 100-yard individual medley; Adam Deliefde, third in 50-yard freestyle; Anthony Ardolino, first in 50-yard butterfly; and Joshua Barrows, third in 100-yard freestyle.

Girls 11-12:

The team of Kaitlin Bond, Jennifer Clark, Jessica Lalli, and Abriana Spagnoli placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Katie Gorman, first in 200-yard individual medley; Jillian Kos, first in 200-yard freestyle; Abriana Spagnoli, third in 50-yard freestyle; Jillian Kos, first in 50-yard butterfly; Abriana Spagnoli, second in 100-yard freestyle; Jessica Lalli, first,

and Angela Vinton, third in 50-yard backstroke; and Katie Gorman, third in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Meredith Golbach, Katie Gorman, Jessica Lalli, and Jillian Kos placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 11-12:

The team of Connor Dooley, Alex Bakhared, Jeffrey Lagasse, and Kyle Turcotte placed third in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jeffrey Lagasse, second in 200-yard individual medley; Matthew Gendron, second in 200-yard freestyle; Kyle Turcotte, third in 50-yard freestyle; Erik Deliefde, first in 50-yard butterfly and third in 100-yard freestyle; Matthew Gendron, first, and Connor Dooley, second in 50-yard backstroke; and Alex Bakhared, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Jeffrey Lagasse, Erik Deliefde, Connor Dooley, and Matthew Gendron placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 13-14:

Brittany Theriaque, first in 200-yard freestyle; Daveen Macsata, second, and Laura Zerra, third in 50-yard freestyle; Allison Morris, second in 100-yard butterfly; Daveen Macsata, second in 100-yard freestyle; Brittany Theriaque, first in 100-yard backstroke; and Allison Morris, second in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Brittany Theriaque, Laura Zerra, Allison Morris, and Daveen Macsata placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 13-14:

The team of Kyle Sullivan, Daniel Adamski, Michael Lalli, and Paul Lagasse placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Michael Lalli, first in 200-yard individual medley; Paul Lagasse, second, and Matthew Hayden, third in 200-yard freestyle; Jason St. George, first, and Stevan Iacolo, third in 50-yard freestyle; Daniel Adamski, first in 100-yard butterfly; David Torrey, first, and Stevan Iacolo, second in 100-yard freestyle; Kyle Sullivan, first, and Matthew Hayden, second in 100-yard backstroke; and David Torrey, third in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Kyle Sullivan, Michael Lalli, Paul Lagasse, and Daniel Adamski placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Matthew Hayden, Stevan Iacolo, David Torrey, and Jason St. George placed second.

Girls 15-18:

Kaitlin Morris, first in 200-yard freestyle and first in 100-yard breaststroke.

Boys 15-18:

Nathan Adamski, second in 100-yard butterfly and first in 100-yard backstroke.

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Bay State Shotgunners Begin Season...

Bay State shotgunners began Monday's opener in an unseasonably warm fashion. Early reports indicate that hunter success as well as hunter numbers were down somewhat from previous years.

Lack of snow cover meant poor tracking success, and careful pre-season scouting was more important than ever.

The weatherman is predicting warm weather with the possibility of stiff winds.

During these types of windy conditions, the deer generally don't move around too much, either. Try hunting on the sheltered sides of the hills and hunt slowly. Don't expect to see a whole deer standing in the forest. Check out thick juniper and hemlock stands, where the deer can bed down out of the wind, and out of sight as well.

Look for telltale body parts such as an ear or anything that seems out of place shape-wise. Many of us have had the startling experience of having a deer bolt from the underbrush just moments after we had passed it unnoticed.

A good pair of light-gathering binoculars can be a great help when it comes to finding well-concealed deer. Scope out an area in detail before proceeding forward. Try to identify everything in front of you and to either side.

Make a mental catalog of what you see: rock, stump, bush, rock, tree, stump, etc. Deer are masters at playing the hide-and-wait game. Their natural coloration causes them to blend in with the background quite well.

Make sure you are wearing your 500 square inches of Hunter Orange, and have a safe hunting season.

Chesapeake Bay Stripers

Back on November 20th, I attended a conference in Virginia on the future of the striped bass fishery. There is a move to open the striper fishery to commercial harvest. Although the striper numbers have rebounded, it is too soon to even think about a wholesale commercial harvest.

Studies have shown that although there are more stripers today than a decade ago, some of these fish are not growing normally. It is not unusual to find fish that are 10 to 20 pounds underweight for their length.

While some attribute this to a lack of forage fish (bunker and herring), there is some evidence that there may be a more sinister cause that has to do with chemical pollutants. There is one theory that the pcb and pcp pollution of the bay may have genetically altered some of the factors that affect growth, aggression, and reproduction.

Many of the fish that I have taken in the last few years have seemed normal in respect to length-to-weight ratios, but most of these fish are from the Hudson River.

One school of thought concerning the Chesapeake Bay stripers is that they are not the same fish as were present during the heydays of the 50's. The possibility exists that after the strain was nearly wiped out, that fish from the Roanoke River strain replaced them.

There are subtle differences in how the eggs of these fish appear, along with some differences in hatching ratios.

It was an interesting conference, and I hope all sportsmen will pressure their legislators to give game fish status to this great resource.

American Lung Assoc. Unveils New Ski Privilege Book

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts has unveiled its new and improved "Ski Privilege Book" for the 1998-99 ski season, offering free and discounted skiing at over a dozen ski resorts in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Discounts are also available at eight area ski shops on ski merchandise and ski tune-ups.

For \$39, the holder of the "Ski Privilege Book" can ski one time at each resort either free or at a discount, Monday through Friday. The book includes free pass deals, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and other discounts on ski passes and merchandise.

Participating Western Massachusetts ski areas are: Berkshire East, Blandford, Bousquet, Butternut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, Otis Ridge, and Wachusett Mountain. Participating Connecticut and New Hampshire areas are: Mt. Southington, Powder Ridge, Mohawk Mountain, Woodbury, Cedar Brook, and Black Mountain Ski Area.

Discounts on merchandise and tune-ups are available in Western Massachusetts at the Colorado Ski Outlet, Competitive Edge, Wildwater Outfitters, and the Ski-In. Other discounts are available at Connecticut shops as well.

One-hundred percent of funds raised through the "Ski Privilege Book" will help the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts' community education and research programs in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties.

For more information or to order the "Ski Privilege Book," please call the American Lung Association at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.

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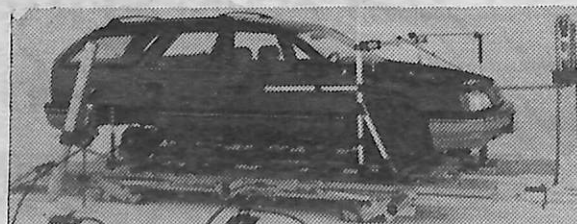
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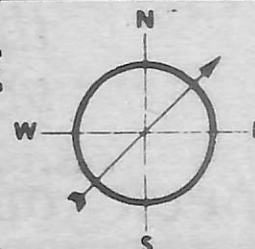
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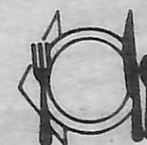
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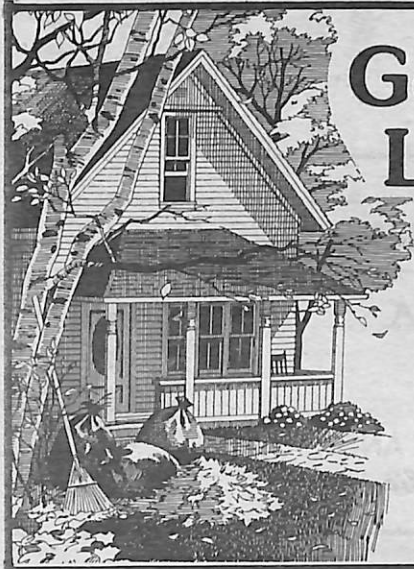
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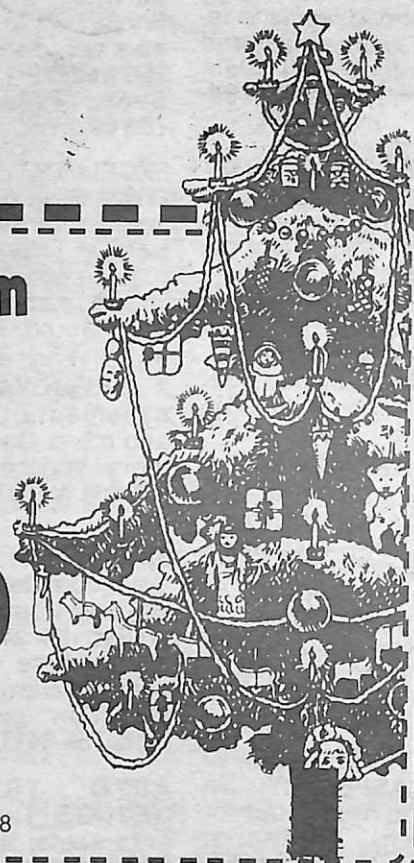
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